

Europe MPs throw out budget by big majority

EEC draft budget for 1980 was thrown out by the European Parliament yesterday amid cheers and applause. The historic decision was taken by 288 votes to 54, despite a last-minute plea from Mr Brian Lenihan, Irish chairman of the Council of Ministers, not to "go down the road of confrontation".

Jeers as final plea is rejected

Michael Hirst

Paris, Dec 13 — Cheers, clapping, and waving of order papers in the European Parliament here today, voting by an overwhelming majority to throw out the EEC draft budget for next year, was the first time it happened in the history of the community.

The Parliament's legal action, despite an appeal from Brian Lenihan, the Irish Minister, and chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, not to "go down the road of confrontation" with the states, was a landmark move from Euro-MPs, who had badly said that the EEC was of wrangling ahead if the budget was rejected. That, he said, could not but do to the image of the EEC as a "people's community".

Jeered, the Parliament voted by 288 votes to 54, with one abstention, in favour of rejecting the budget, asking for a new draft to be submitted. The majority was 288 to 54, with one abstention.

able without possibility

And bitter Mr. Lenihan, who had spent all night in the Parliament, said that the EEC was a "people's community" and that the rejection of the budget was a "people's decision".

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Explaining their positions before the vote, which was carried out amid some confusion with the aid of a new electronic voting apparatus, leaders of the main political groups rose one after another to assert the Parliament's democratic right to control the budget.

One of the most striking statements came from Herr Martin Bangemann, German leader of the Liberal group, who accused the Council of treating the Parliament as an inferior body that could be forced off with a few legalistic amendments to the budget draft. The two institutions simply did not speak the same language.

The Liberals, who earlier had been thought likely to vote against rejection, split in half, thus leaving the necessary majority for rejection a certainty.

The clearest statement of the French attitude came from M. Vicens, a Gaullist, who said the Parliament was seeking to usurp the authority of national governments and trying to force the common agricultural policy into a "budgetary straitjacket".

Last night's prolonged negotiations between the Council and the Parliament broke down when the Parliament demanded that a budgetary limit should be put on agricultural spending in advance of the annual spring farm price settlement.

Parliament calls for new draft budget

The Parliament last night demanded the addition of some £430m to spending on the agricultural sector, mainly regional and structural development, social and economic aid to agriculture, research and energy projects. Member states refused to offer more than £130m.

The Council also failed to accept the Parliament's request that the EEC budget be financed by a new tax on agricultural products and a new tax on the import of goods from non-EEC countries.



The Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, after Crown Princess Sonja of Norway switched the lights on yesterday.

Revie ban lifted but FA may put new charge

By Craig Seaton

A new charge of bringing the game into disrepute may be brought by the Football Association against Mr Don Revie, the former England manager, who yesterday won his High Court action to have lifted a 10-year ban on his involvement in domestic football.

Mr Justice Cantley said that although Mr Revie had brought English football to the highest level into disrepute, the ban had to be lifted with regret because of the possibility of his bringing the FA, who should not have presided over Mr Revie's disciplinary hearing, into disrepute.

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Ministers' dilemma as NUJ wins on blacking

By Fred Emery

A powerful reaffirmation yesterday by the House of Lords of existing trade unions' immunities from civil action in "secondary" industrial action has faced the Government with a dilemma in its new Employment Bill.

The issue is whether to risk delaying the Bill's reforms by including amendments to legislate against such "black and blocking" or to leave the matter, a specific Conservative manifesto commitment, until later in the session.

Britain will be bombed, Provisional IRA says

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast, Dec 13 — Provisional IRA sources in Belfast said last night that any planned bombing attacks on the British mainland would go ahead despite police raids in several centres on Wednesday.

The sources confirmed that it is policy to renew bombing raids on the mainland but would not say whether any imminent attacks were planned. The long absence of bombing expeditions in England was due to a re-organization of the IRA's structure into a tightly-knit cell system, which has been completed for some time.

Buying Dewar's is like hooking a salmon when you expected a trout.

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Dec 13 — Lord Soames, the Governor of southern Rhodesia, faced the first test of his authority today when 1,000 chanting and singing Africans demonstrated against his failure to lift the ban on the Patriotic Front — guerrilla alliance.

Because the Patriotic Front and its two components, Zapu and Zanu, are still prohibited organizations, the demonstration was technically illegal and was eventually dispersed peacefully after the police had asked the organizer, Mr Cephas Msaipa, to call it off.

Opec moderates put up oil prices before meeting in Caracas

By Nicholas Hirst

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporting country, is increasing its prices by 33 per cent to \$24 a barrel in advance of the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which begins in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday.

Three other moderate members of Opec — Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar — are all increasing their prices above the official upper limit of \$23.50 set at the last Opec meeting. Only Venezuela has set out the level of increase, which matches the Saudi price rise of \$18 to \$24.

The increases by the moderate states were announced by Dr Mansoor Al Otaibi, the UAE oil minister and present Opec president, before he left for Caracas. The UAE rise, effective from yesterday, raised its crude price from \$21.56 to \$27.56. There is speculation that this might become a unified price for Opec for the first half of next year, but the "hawks" will demand more.

Although Venezuelan government officials confirmed that their price was being increased, there was some doubt last night whether its price would rise by the full 56. Neither was there confirmation of the Qatar increase from ministers.

Savak men 'working for Iran revolution'

From Robert Fisk

Tehran, Dec 13 — Mr Shokrollah Paknejad was arrested by the Shah's secret police on January 10, 1979, and taken to the Kasr prison in Tehran. There they tore out all his fingernails one by one and whipped him naked with heavy cables made of thin wire.

His torture lasted for seven consecutive days and nights and ended only after his tormentors had several times forced him to sign his own pretended execution. Mr Paknejad can therefore claim to know something about the suffering of political prisoners.

land Revenue shared over bids on offices

Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal ruling that the Inland Revenue had an illegal and excessive power in raising the office of assessment finance group. But Mr Justice Plummer, the group's managing director, issued a warning that they would continue to fight against the Revenue's action. They would also fight for damages for loss of business.

20m building for 2's ruled out

Margaret Thatcher firmly ruled out a Commons a go-ahead on the project to provide more space for offices in Westminster. "We cannot ask people to undertake unless we are prepared to defend ourselves," she said.

turning to steelmen

Workers will be driving the British Corporation into deeper trouble. The more plants they close, the more threatened strikes, Sir Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, said in the Commons.

'Misleading' evidence in aid scheme

The Department of Energy and Sir Jack Rampton, its chief officer, have been censured by the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts for giving "grossly inaccurate and misleading evidence". The criticism arises from an investigation by the committee which revealed that the department had overpaid grants to a total of £44m in connection with an aid scheme to boost British companies' participation in the North Sea offshore oil industry.

More cuts threatened

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has confirmed that the Government intends to make another round of public spending cuts. "We need to have another go this year in order to get it right if the end," she told a meeting of the Conservative backbench committee. She made a clear reference to tackling the "pay-work syndrome" arising from speculation that the Government was considering new measures of unemployment benefit.

Hospital's fatal error

A series of mistakes led to a man having an operation for cancer although he did not have the disease, an inquest told. The patient, who subsequently died, was said to have asked if the operation was necessary because he was worried about his health.

Quebec language law overruled

The Canadian Supreme Court has overturned an unconstitutional French language law making French the sole official language of the province. In light of the ruling the Quebec Government is to restore English as the official language of courts and the Legislature.

England drop Gooch

England's team to play in the first Test against Australia in Perth. Miller replaces him and Kent's fast bowler, Dilley, wins his first cap. Randall will open the innings with Boycott.

Beckett's payments

Government proposals to restrict cash for strikers' families described as vicious.

Hospitals' crisis

BMA 'leader' gives warning of waiting lists increasing to a million patients.

On other pages

Leader page, 15
Letters: On the role of gold in currencies, from Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP; on change in writ of summons from Mr Arthur Weir, and on smoking, from Mr David Simpson, and others.
Leading articles: Theologians and the Vatican; Russia and Kampuchea.

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HOME NEWS

New building for MPs will not go ahead because of financial stringency, Mrs Thatcher rules

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

There is no possibility of this going ahead, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when asked in the Commons yesterday about the project, launched on Wednesday, for the building of a new parliamentary precinct opposite Big Ben in Bridge Street at a cost of more than £120m.

At the press conference on Wednesday, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House of Commons, said that the plan had to be considered against the background of financial stringency.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Anthony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton, North, referred to the building as "a gin palace and swimming bath".

Mrs Thatcher replied firmly that there was no possibility of the project going ahead, and added: "We really cannot ask people to undertake burdens unless we also are prepared to bear burdens ourselves."

Among them was Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and chairman of the newly appointed Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service.

He said: "It is good news that Parliament is to debate the project because the extra building is urgently needed to accom-

modate the ordinary work of Parliament."

Mr du Cann said that when all the 14 new departmental select committees and their sub-committees got to work, and standing committees were engaged at the same time in four or five rooms on the consideration of Bills, there would not be enough space to go round.

The pressure on facilities is such that it is difficult to find a committee room to do the necessary work of investigation that MPs are now being called upon to carry out," he said.

"It is not a matter of empire-building. If MPs are to strengthen their powers in the control of the Executive, they must have proper facilities. At present they do not have them. It is inevitable that extra accommodation should be provided. To talk about swimming pools is rubbish. But committee rooms and space for the staff are indispensable if we are to do our jobs properly."

His committee had decided on a massive plan involving the examination of the Treasury of the economy. "It is absurd to think that you can accommodate that work in a telephone box," he said.

After the exchanges in the Commons, Mr Marlow said he welcomed the Prime Minister's assurance. Accommodation was difficult but at a time of financial stringency it was wrong to talk about launching the project.

"If we were to approve expenditure of £123m on a gin

palace and swimming pool in a parliamentary building over the road it would be an insult to the electors," he said.

Mr Michael Gyles, Conservative MP for Surrey, North-West, said: "Example starts at home. This is one area where we can set an example of thrift."

Mr John Parker, Labour MP for Barking, Dagenham, who is Father of the House, said that he was in favour of the project but not now. He had been against earlier projects because he did not like the architectural style; the plans this time looked more reasonable.

He said there was an urgent need for more space for the Commons Library, a point that has been taken up by other MPs.

Our Planning Reporter writes: Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy and senior partner of Casson, Couder and Partners, the architects responsible for the scheme, said yesterday that he was not really surprised by Mrs Thatcher's statement.

"But the point which has not been appreciated is that the first phase involves the rehabilitation of several buildings which belong to the Government, and which are listed. Sooner or later they have got to be repaired, and if they are going to put some people in them, then those people must as well be MPs."

"I would have thought it was only prudent housekeeping to go ahead with phase one."

Letters, page 15

New committees 'should have full-time experts'

By Our Political Staff

Expert advisers to the new-style Commons select committees which will inquire into the workings of government departments should be employed on a permanent basis, Mr George Cunningham, Labour MP for Islington, South, and Finsbury, told the Parliamentary Labour Party last night.

Mr Frederick Willey, chairman of the PLP, said that he had already raised this with the Commons authorities.

He said after the meeting that he recognized that such appointments might affect the staffing structure of the Commons, and there was a need for flexibility.

Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East, has been elected chairman of the select committee on the social services, after first rising with Mr David Ennals, the former Secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr John Giddings, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and chairman of the employment select committee, announced inquiries into the legal immunity of trade unions and related topics, unfilled vacancies at a time of high unemployment, and the impact of new technology on employment.

Mrs Khashoggi question for Prime Minister

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister is to be asked in the Commons next week if she will refer to the Security Commission the evidence given by Mrs Khashoggi in respect of her relationship with a politician involved in defence matters.

Mr James Wellbeloved, Labour MP for Bexley, Erith and Crayford, and a former junior defence minister, tabled the question last night for written priority answer on Monday.

Downing Street last night would not comment on the court case at the Central Criminal Court beyond saying that no report had been called for and none was needed.

The politician's name was written down and shown to the judge and jury during the trial, which three Scotland Yard detectives were sentenced for blackmailing Mrs Khashoggi, but he was referred to as Mr X.

Mrs Khashoggi, the former wife of an international arms dealer, confirmed while giving evidence against the three officers that the relationship with the politician was "more than a friendship."

She said that the affair was "common knowledge in her household", but emphasized that she had never been to the politician's office or seen any of his papers.

Mr Wellbeloved said last night: "The whole area of security in respect of the Ministry of Defence and defence forces generally is a very important matter."

There have been a number of Security Commission reports that make it clear that association with blackmailers and people involved in corrupt practices can be a security risk.

A recent court case involved corruption and blackmail, for which three police officers were sentenced on the basis of the evidence given by Mrs S. Khashoggi, and during the course of her evidence the name of a politician was given to the judge.

"Parliament is entitled to the assurance that the politician concerned did not have access to sensitive defence material. I believe it is important that the Security Commission, whose terms of reference cover this sort of broad question, should be invited to consider the matter."

More cuts on way, 1922 group warned

By Our Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher warned Tory backbenchers last night that more public expenditure cuts were to come and the Government would expect their support in the difficult months ahead.

The Prime Minister said: "We need to have another go at getting public expenditure down." Later, when backbenchers banged their desks at her remark that the Government had to "tackle the 'why work?' syndrome", she said: "I hope when you apply the principle you will not duck the reality."

The implication is that if MPs ran into constituency difficulties because of the Government's economic and financial strategy, they would recognize and support the administration's aims.

Mrs Thatcher, who was addressing the 1922 Committee, said the Government was laying out the economic and legislative foundations for the future.

It was important to understand the changing attitudes the Government was bringing about. Management were now free to manage. Controls on changes had all gone. "We are not having beer and sandwiches at No 10," she said.

Among trade unionists, moderates are now standing up to militancy, and the successes of the secret ballots were showing.

The Government was involved in another round of cutting public expenditure. "We have to look for better, crisper and waste wherever it is," she said.

Next year the legislative programme would be the heaviest embarked on, but it was designed to lay the foundations for a sound Conservative economy.

The Government was determined about Britain's £1000m contribution to the EEC: that was a battle that had still to be won.

David Blake writes: The Prime Minister's comments provide the first official confirmation that a new round of spending cuts are under way, probably to take effect in the financial year beginning next April. Her comments on the "why-work?" syndrome are bound to encourage speculation that the Government is thinking of giving way to backbench pressure to end the policy of increasing benefits for the unemployed and those on social security to take account of the full impact of price increases.

Any move by the Government to end the indexation of unemployment benefits in response to the Law Lords' decision in the Express Newspapers v MacShane case is almost certain to exacerbate already existing tensions between ministers and union leaders.

While lawyers at the Department of Employment were studying how to close the "loophole" opened up by the case, the TUC Employment Policy and Organization Committee yesterday considered its next move in the unions' campaign against the employment Bill published last week.

The unions decided to seek a further meeting with Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, before the national TUC conference on January 22, to resist the dangerous consequences of industrial relations' of proceeding with the proposed legislation.

Mr Prior's intention to outlaw the kind of tactic taken by journalists at the Daily Express, is traced by his aides to the Conservative Party election manifesto which promised to

Minister says threat is already frightening buyers away

Steel strike 'would be catastrophic'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, gave a grim warning to steel workers yesterday that if they embarked on their threatened strike in early January they would be driving the British Steel Corporation into deeper trouble and forcing more plant closures and redundancies.

Speaking in the Commons at the start of a debate on the crisis in the industry, which is already being cut back by 50,000 jobs, Sir Keith told those who would not only harm the suppliers and users but would also have a catastrophic effect on the workers.

In the past few days the threat alone had been damaging the steel industry, buyers were already seeking alternative sources.

Sir Keith's uncompromising stand and his almost compassionate speech left MPs on both sides of the House in the doubt that there would be no intervention, no state subsidies and precious little else to soften the shock of the closures in the steel industry.

In a sentence towards the end of his speech he expressed the hope that the industry would approach the situation in a more human manner and he did promise briefly that there would be Government action of some unspecified kind to cushion the social consequences.

Over and over again, as he was repeatedly interrupted by Mr Callaghan from the Labour front bench and by other MPs from steel and coal constituencies, Sir Keith reiterated their questions to the management of the corporation.

Pressed by the Leader of the Opposition to say what would happen if the industry did not break even by the end of the year, Sir Keith said that BSC should make no operating loss in the year 1980-81 after depreciation and interest.

BSC would have to manage its affairs to achieve that target. If the steelworkers decided to strike then, the consequences might be more reductions and closures as potential buyers were frightened away.

He begged workers not to inflict self-injury on top of the market injury. Sir Keith said

that the BSC management faced a seriously deteriorating situation and no one could be sure that it could break even without more closures.

His tough stand, which appeared to be received somewhat nervously even by some of his own backbenchers, was firmly backed earlier in the day by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

As did Sir Keith, Mrs Thatcher firmly told the House that any questions about the way the BSC management was doing its job should be referred to the corporation.

Mr Michael Foot, shadow Minister of the House, winding up the debate for the Opposition, gave a warning that if the Government continued with its present policy it would condemn not only the steel industry but a considerable section of the country to disaster.

Labour, he promised, would fight the steel closure proposals with everything in its power.

The debate ended with the House endorsing the Government's steel policy by 240 votes to 253, a Government majority of 57.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Sir Keith agrees to meet Mr Murray

By Our Labour Editor

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has agreed to meet steel workers' leader Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, tomorrow for urgent talks about the deepening crisis in the state steel industry.

Raymond union leaders yesterday threw their weight behind the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which has called its 90,000 state steel members out on strike from January 2, by promising to "black" the transport of iron ore and steel products by rail if the stoppage goes ahead.

The TUC steel industry committee unanimously rejected the British Steel Corporation's demand for a 2% cut in wages over the next eight months. The committee will be recommending opposition to the cuts at next Wednesday's meeting of the TUC Council.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the ISIC, said last night: "It is government action that is giving us the destruction

of the basis of British industry."

Leaders of the steelworkers' union had several hours of talks with Sir Keith last night but the two sides stuck to their entrenched positions and no statement was issued. Little progress is understood to have been made in the discussions between Sir Keith and other ISIC officials and Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the corporation, and Mr Bob Scholey, his chief executive.

The ISIC general secretary afterwards accused British Steel of "hiding behind the Government" to get its own way over plant closures, job cuts and the 2% per cent pay offer that precipitated the strike call.

Mr Sidney Weighall, general secretary of the NUR, said: "If the strike takes place we shall send our clear and specific instructions to our members. Any movement involving the size of industry, whether raw materials or not, or the finished product, will be stopped. Nothing will move."

Private sector backs cuts, page 20

Blackening case decision worsens union relations

By Our Labour Editor

The Government's evident determination to outlaw "secondary blackening" in response to the Law Lords' decision in the Express Newspapers v MacShane case is almost certain to exacerbate already existing tensions between ministers and union leaders.

While lawyers at the Department of Employment were studying how to close the "loophole" opened up by the case, the TUC Employment Policy and Organization Committee yesterday considered its next move in the unions' campaign against the employment Bill published last week.

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Wait for inquiry result, dismissed BL man says

By Clifford Webb

Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed British Leyland shop steward's leader, said in Birmingham yesterday: "I do not see any problem about my resignation statement."

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers began an inquiry nine days ago into his departure.

Asked what would happen if the inquiry produced a compromise criticizing BL management but stopping short of recommending official strike action in support of his reinstatement, he said: "Let us wait and see what the inquiry does."

But Mr Jack Adams, chairman of the Longbridge joint shop stewards' committee and one of three other stewards threatened with dismissal, said: "Anything less than the unconditional reinstatement of our convenor will be nothing less than tragic for BL."

The inquiry is not expected to report before mid-January. However, Mr Robinson's supporters are finding it increasingly difficult to persuade workers to maintain militant attitudes.

Council men offered 13 p to stall winter strife

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

Local authority employers are hoping to avoid last winter's bitter strife with the manual workers after once again agreed last night to let the members consider over a next month a pay offer was between 14 and 16 per cent.

Unions negotiators will now go to the employers on January 15 on whether delegate meetings representing 1,200,000 council workers have accepted an offer of 14 per cent in three instalments in London yesterday.

Acceptance of the offer would give some comfort to ministers who have been stalling themselves to run "four rate" of around 20 per cent after settlements made by PFI workers and the unions.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' side said last night that because of cash limits imposed on local authorities by Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for the Environment, "there is not the money from central government in terms of the support grant to cover the order of pay increase."

He added: "Local authorities are going to have to live very hard indeed at where money is going to come from."

The employers, some of whom represent more than 100,000 workers, have decided to offer Mr Heseltine's amount that single figure increases were needed to avoid either job losses or reductions in services, believe that the limit, if accepted, will be locally.

The employers' secretariat to circulate without union endorsement a directive to councils to examine bonus schemes in an attempt to offset the cost of the union side, said the call by increased productivity.

Mr Charles Donnet, secretary had nearly broken down by cause of the employers' initial reluctance to reward low service employees with adequately increased holidays.

In the end, however, he said: "We have made sufficient progress, with considerable difficulty, to put the offer back to our members but without it being enough to endorse it with our recommendation."

The offer is above the award made by the Clegg commission on comparability, the commission and smaller phase of which local authority workers will receive next April.

Issue of doctors' judgment put off

Any government initiative on establishing a method of investigating complaints about the clinical judgment of doctors in the National Health Service must wait until next May, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

It is expected that a sub-committee set up by the Joint Consultants' Committee to consider the issue will have produced its conclusions by then.

Nuclear pact extended

A five-year extension of the Government's nuclear material agreement with the United States was signed on December 5, the Prime Minister disclosed last night.

This extension of the 1958 Atomic Energy Defence Agreement will give Britain access to the Trident missile system and other warhead technology required for renewal of the independent deterrent, when the Cabinet has made its final decision next spring.

Don't forget the Christmas Post.

Please post before these dates and don't leave it until the last minute!

PARCELS
17 DEC

8⁰⁰ POST
17 DEC

10⁰⁰ POST
19 DEC

Royal Mail
Get the most from your post

Tanker drivers return at more Shell terminals

By Our Labour Staff

Tanker drivers at four more Shell terminals returned to work yesterday, leaving only seven of the company's 45 depots still idle.

Workers at the seven depots have been suspended by Shell for not cooperating with the use of outside contract labour, but with the drift back to work by their colleagues, other depots may be only a matter of time before they return to normal working.

The depots at which drivers returned to work yesterday are at Sheehaven, the Thames Estuary, and Ardrossan, Granton and Grangemouth, in Scotland.

One-day Tube strike threatened

London's underground service will be severely disrupted on Monday if an unofficial one-day strike goes ahead. The strike is being planned by some members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

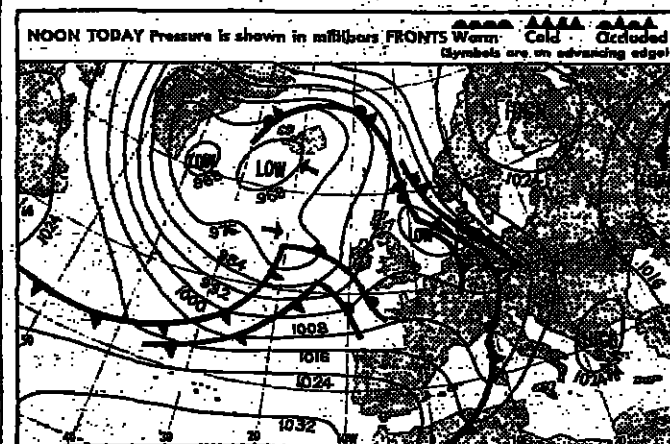
The Aslef men say they will leave some unofficial backing from members of the National Union of Railwaymen. The dispute is over back pay.

Man detained over documents

A man has been detained in connection with the confidential Ministry of Defence documents found dumped last week in a hedge at Poole, Suffolk.

Police said yesterday that they had recovered a briefcase which contained the documents and a "bag" of papers viewed at Southwark, Suffolk.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 7.53 am. Sun sets: 3.52 pm.
Moon rises: 1.17 am. Moon sets: 1.37 pm.
Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.29 am.
High water: London Bridge, 9.29 am, 5.5m (18.5ft); Dover, 10.2m (33.3ft); Dover, 6.59 am, 5.5m (18.5ft); Dover, 11.7m (37.7ft); Hull, 12.0 am, 5.5m (18.5ft); 2.23 pm, 5.9m (19.5ft); Liverpool, 7.15 am, 7.4m (24.1ft); 7.35 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft).

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
Low pressure over E districts will move away, but further troughs will move NE into W areas.
London, SE, central S England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Mostly dry and bright, becoming cloudy by midnight.
Wales, W or NW, strong to gale, decreasing to moderate, backing SW; max temp 8°C (46°F).
East Angles, E, central N England: Rain, heavy in places, clearing during morning, bright or sunny intervals developing; wind NW, strong to gale, decreasing to moderate, backing SW (43°F).
SW England, S Wales: Mostly dry and bright, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy in evening; wind W, moderate, backing SW; strong; max temp 10°C to 11°C (50° to 52°F).
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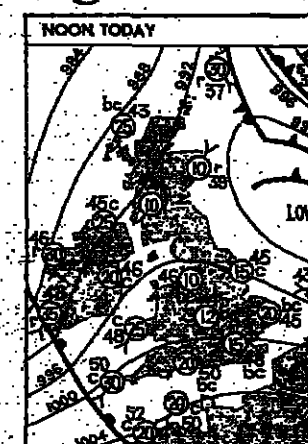
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HOME NEWS

Plans to cut benefits for families of strikers 'are vicious'

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to restrict severely benefits for strikers' families were condemned yesterday as "vicious" and likely to lead to a wave of unofficial strikes. The proposals, which were leaked to *Time Out* magazine, would reduce payments for some families by £10 a week, leaving most with benefits of between £1 and £5 a week on present figures.

The proposals, contained in a confidential memorandum from a senior Treasury civil servant to Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, are acknowledged to be "significantly different" from others considered by ministers. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has suggested that there should be no specific provision for hardship payments "even in distressing cases" and that that proposal "is harsher than those considered so far".

However, the memorandum says that the proposal fits in with Sir Geoffrey's plan for a low level of or left to the discretion of local social security staff. That idea is said in the memorandum to have been condemned as "unreasonable" by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, whose department emphasized yesterday that no decision had been taken.

The proposals would mean that from next year union members "with an interest in the outcome of a dispute" would be assumed to be receiving £10 a week strike pay from their union, and their benefits would be reduced accordingly. In addition, instead of ignoring the first £4 of income tax rebates and strike pay, social security staff would be instructed to take those amounts into account in assessing the benefit.

More than 1.8m people will lose under Bill

By Our Social Services Correspondent

More than 1,800,000 people will lose up to £3 a week under the proposed changes in the Social Security Bill, while 703,000 will gain. Nearly nine tenths of the losers will be pensioners, and 8,000 of them will lose £3 or more a week.

The figures were released on the eve of the Government's decision to give the Bill a second reading before Christmas. The figures given in a Parliamentary written reply by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, show that 19,000 people will lose £3 a week or more under the Bill. They include 2,000 sick and disabled people, half of them with dependent children, 7,000 unemployed claimants, and 2,000 one-parent families.

Law Lords overturn tax raids ruling

By a Staff Reporter

By a four-to-one majority the Law Lords yesterday overturned a Court of Appeal ruling of last August that the Inland Revenue had been guilty of an illegal and excessive use of power in carrying out raids at 7 am on the premises of the Rossmore Finance group.

But Mr Ronald Plummer, the group's managing director, whose home was also raided in a bulk seizure of documents needed for an investigation into suspected tax fraud, indicated they would continue their fight against the department's action.

They would be proceeding with their claim for damages for loss of business and loss of interest on £2.5m of deposits withdrawn after the raid.

More than seventy tax men and police were involved in the raids, in which documents were seized from the offices of Rossmore Ltd and AJR Finance Services, an accounting and secretarial company, and from the homes of Mr Plummer and Mr Roy Tucker, a tax consultant.

Lord Wilberforce said yesterday that since the second World War the important human right of the privacy of a man's home had been eroded by a number of statutes passed by Parliament. A formidable number of officials had powers to enter people's premises and take property away. It was no part of the courts' duty or power, however, to impede the working even of unpopular legislation.

In a minority dissenting judgment, Lord Salmon said the Revenue's new powers under the Finance Act, 1976, were altogether unnecessary, and dangerously encroached on individual liberty.

He was convinced that the search warrants in this case were invalid.

Law report, page 12

Plea that 'New Statesman' article could affect the administration of justice

Crown claims that interview with juror was contempt

By Trevor Fishlock

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He had asked the *New Statesman* to request that its costs should be paid.

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Law report, page 12

Operation man died after 'sample error'

From Arthur Osman

Coventry

A doctor in charge of a hospital laboratory told an inquest at Coventry yesterday that a transposition of tissue samples led to a man having an operation for cancer when he did not have the disease.

It was said that Mr Patrick McCann, aged 49, a father of three children, of Henley Road, Bell Green, Coventry, died from cancer after infection and a leak that could happen after such an operation.

Mr McCann had much of his stomach removed after a surgeon had examined samples that indicated cancer was present.

Dr James Black, who was in administrative charge of the laboratory at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, said that on September 28 he examined a specimen which indicated cancer and he made a report accordingly. The laboratory number and that of the slide corresponded.

An investigation was started on the afternoon that Mr McCann had the operation, as there were grounds for suspecting an error. Dr Black said there had been a transposition of tissue samples. "We have made mistakes in the past, but safe procedures were operated to detect them in time," he said.

There had been a careful investigation, but it was still not known what exactly had taken place. "No laboratory is 100 per cent foolproof, but we hope it is as foolproof as humanly possible," Dr Black said.

Mr Michael McCann, aged 22, the son of the dead man, said that his father had worked at a local factory and had enjoyed perfect health. Last July he complained to the family doctor of chest pains after falling off a fence in June.

He was admitted to hospital on October 17 and the operation took place five days later. "My father told me he had cancer and asked me not to tell my mother at that stage,"

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Warning by BMA leader of a million patients on hospital waiting lists

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Mr Anthony Graham, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, said in London yesterday that the National Health Service was heading for longer waiting lists of a million patients.

Addressing a luncheon of the Medical Journalists' Association, Mr Graham said he believed the private sector had the potential to fill the gaps in the NHS.

It was in the interests of patients that an acceptable way be found of applying what he believed to be a realistic solution.

The profession was disappointed that the recent conference document published by the Government had made no mention of alternative means of financing the NHS.

The aim of a comprehensive service had not been achieved, and that target was slipping further away.

"If you are a patient with a hernia, osteoarthritis, a hip joint or various veins you would say the NHS is failing you, there is no doubt," he said.

In the profession's view the NHS was a great institution of enormous value and he wanted it to go on successfully.

He wanted to bring the NHS and the private sector into closer cooperation, so that there could be a harmonious working relationship and "not the kind of politically inspired vendetta that there seems to have been in the past".

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HOME NEWS

Judge lifts 10-year FA ban on Mr Revie and calls him 'greedy, deceitful and selfish'

Craig Seton
The 10-year ban by the Football Association on Mr Don Revie's involvement in domestic football was lifted by the High Court yesterday, but Mr Justice said that the former manager was a "greedy, deceitful and selfish" man.

Mr Justice said Mr Revie, 52, had brought English football to the highest level of disrepute when he quit as England manager in July, to become the £500,000 manager of the United Arab Emirates team. He had been dismissed from his post as manager of the England team by the FA in 1969, after a period of 10 years.

Mr Justice said that with regret he had lifted the ban, but because of the FA's own actions in the case where the ban was imposed, he was not to sit in judgment on what was primarily the FA's own grievance. He had appointed anyone who at the very centre of Justice's duty, making order lifting the ban, said Mr Revie's costs, estimated at £20,000, and their own costs.

He awarded the FA the nominal £10 damages they had claimed for Mr Revie's breach of contract. By way of damages Mr Revie was awarded the tax costs of one appearance before the commission.

Neither Mr Revie, who yesterday was in the United Arab Emirates, nor Sir Harold Thompson was in court.

The judge said the allegation of bias by Sir Harold was decisive if it was established. In English law it was no longer necessary to show actual bias; the test was now whether a reasonable man might think there was a likelihood of bias, and that had come to stay.

He rejected six allegations which Mr Revie claimed had demonstrated Sir Harold's hostility towards him and that he was biased before the commission. He said: "Mr Revie is a very prickly man and he has been brooding on 'imagined wrongs'."

Comments made to newspapers by Sir Harold, he added, in which the FA chairman had talked of "restoring decency, dignity and loyalty", were plainly said in the context of Mr Revie's position and were not a reasonable person with a heartful statement of intent.

Sir Harold should not have presided over the commission. The judge said: "With regret I have come to the conclusion that a reasonable person with no inside knowledge of Sir

Harold's mind would reasonably think in the circumstances there was a real likelihood of bias on his part against Mr Revie."

He added: "Moreover, I think there was a real likelihood of bias, no matter how hard Sir Harold tried to be fair—and I think he did. But I will acquit Sir Harold of any bad faith. He is an honourable man." The judge said he did not consider himself justified in going on to hold that there was bias in fact.

Sir Harold had told the press that Mr Revie had behaved "very badly" in the manner of his resignation. Mr Harold was a man who depicted coarse comments, the materialism and selfish greed which from time to time intruded into professional football.

Harold had received Mr Revie's letter of resignation, "and insolent repudiation of his contract", on the same day that a report appeared in the Daily Mail.

The FA had alleged a flagrant breach of contract. It was a flagrant breach, he said, which had set a bad example. In failing to disclose a fall to Dubai and by asking for £50,000, the salary for the two years remaining on his contract, plus a further £5,000, Mr Revie had acted deceitfully.

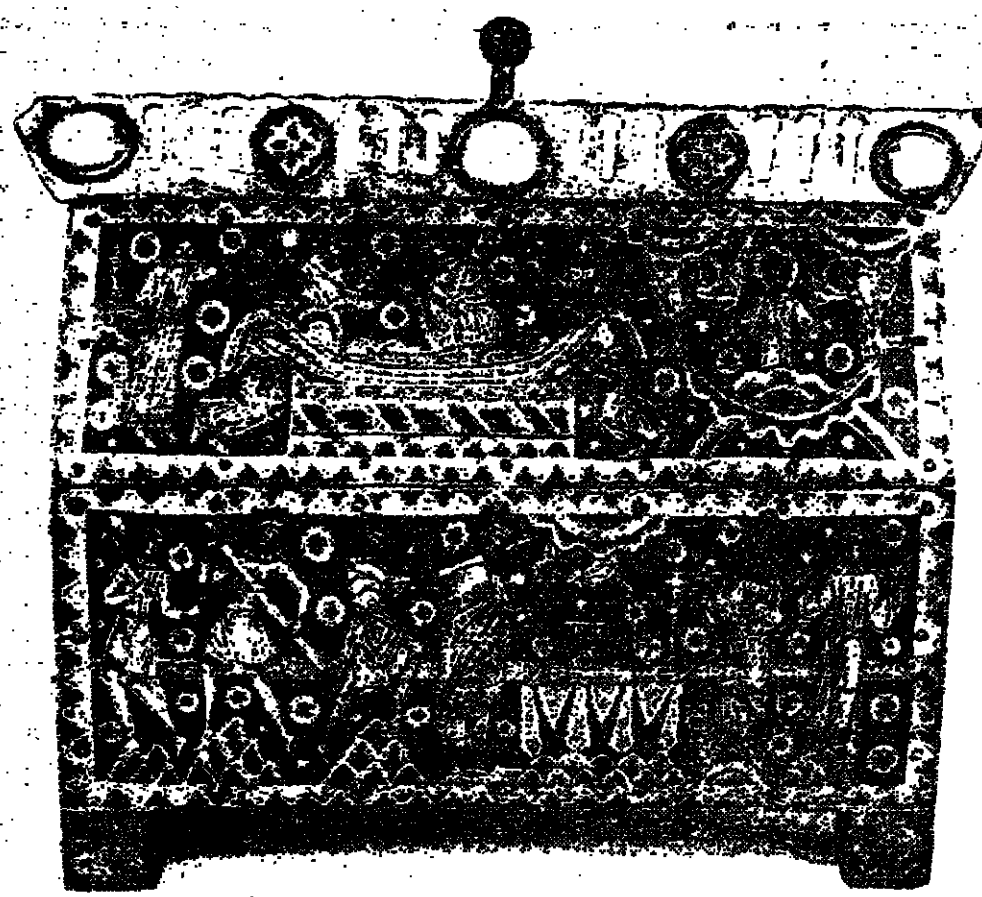
The way he had resigned was conduct likely to bring the game

into disrepute. The judge said: "There were simply established facts from which it was reasonable for the commission and the FA council to be satisfied that Mr Revie's conduct brought the game into disrepute."

The judge said the 10-year ban appeared longer than appropriate and it was a restraint of trade, but only in this country.

With the offer of a four-year contract from the United Arab Emirates worth £340,000 and a £100,000 signing on fee in his pocket, Mr Revie had asked the FA to pay £50,000 for his resignation. The contract was refused, and a £5,000 golden handshake. The judge said Mr Revie had denied asking for the second sum and added: "I utterly reject his evidence on that point. I do not believe it is the agreed with an FA member who said Mr Revie had acted deceitfully and added: 'It was also, of course, very greedy.'"

The judge refused to deal with a further claim by Mr Revie that the FA should drop any plans to inquire into allegations that he had offered inducements to Alan Ball, a former England player, to move to Leeds where Mr Revie was manager at the time. Mr Revie had issued a libel writ and when that was tried or abandoned the FA could decide whether to continue the inquiry.



The Limoges reliquary casket which fetched £420,000 at Sotheby's yesterday.

£420,000 for a Beckett reliquary

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A majestic Limoges enamel casket, which scholars suggest was commissioned by Peterborough Abbey in the 1190s to contain the relics of St Thomas Becket, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £420,000. It was bought by the London dealer, Mr Robin Symes, who was not prepared to give an indication of its final destination.

The house-shaped chalice, or casket, is applied with Limoges champlevé enamel plaques depicting scenes of the martyrdom of the saint and his translation to Heaven.

The cult of Becket spread

quickly, particularly in the British-controlled regions of France, after his canonization in the 1170s. In all, 45 Limoges enamel reliquary caskets are known that were made to contain Becket's relics. Scholars, however, believe this one is probably the earliest.

Its history can be traced in the mid-eighteenth century, when its owner recorded in a journal that it came from "a Popish family of old in St Neots" and that the chalice was supposed to have remained there ever since the Dissolution.

The suggestion, therefore, is that it left Peterborough Abbey at the time of the Dissolution; Abbot Benedict is known to have taken the relics of Becket to Peterborough for safe keeping in 1177.

It was sold at Sotheby's in 1930 and bought by Dacuerre of Paris. Scholars had lost sight of it since then; until recently it has generally been described

as a "lost" masterpiece. However, it has emerged in the collection of Ernst and Marie Koller-Truniger of Lucerne, for whom Sotheby's yesterday sold 30 lots of medieval and renaissance works of art.

The Koller-Truniger collection of ivories and medieval metalwork and enamels are famous; whole catalogues have been published of both collections. The metalwork and enamels collection, however, was sold en bloc some 10 years ago, and the chalice was not in the catalogue. It seems probable that they acquired it only in the past few years.

Despite its historic connections with Britain, the chalice will not require an export licence to leave the country, since it has not been here for the past 50 years. That the purchaser was a London dealer says nothing, of course, as to its ultimate destination. The underbidder is thought to have been German.

Ears after holiday fires

By Our Correspondent

Dodgers feared last night the campaign against cottages in the Welsh countryside may have taken an ugly after fire at four of them in 12 hours.

Four homes were destroyed in a fire which began in a barn owned by English people. One theory was that a fire of extremists, operating in North and Wales, might be responsible.

Senior fire brigades spokesman said: "This is highly suspicious. Police have called in six experts."

Four bungalows were destroyed within six hours of each other at Llanrhaeadr-y-Mochnwg, near Fishguard. Another fire during the night destroyed a bungalow at Llanrhaeadr-y-Mochnwg, near Fishguard. The fourth fire in the night, at 1 p.m., at Llanrhaeadr-y-Mochnwg, near Fishguard, destroyed a bungalow at Llanrhaeadr-y-Mochnwg, near Fishguard.

The North Wales Dyfed-Powys fire authority said last night that what was regarded as the "worst fire in the history of the region" since the bomb blast of 1966.

Several years there has been a campaign against the use of holiday homes in the Welsh countryside. Nationalists have claimed that the use of holiday homes is a threat to the Welsh language and way of life.

Welsh Language Society said yesterday: "Arson is a method we would never use."

Genetic engineering research increases

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

There has been a big increase in genetic engineering research during the past year in university and industrial laboratories.

Pharmaceutical companies are seeking ways of producing new drugs and vaccines and medical researchers are devising sensitive techniques for diagnosing inherited abnormalities.

An indication of that effort is shown in the second report on the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group, which has been asked to approve new projects that will increase the number of genetic experiments from 50 to 362.

The rise comes after the change from voluntary to compulsory registration.

Many of the experiments—259—are being made in laboratories listed as suitable for work dealing with category I or II, or carrying a low likelihood of risk.

Ten centres are listed as suitable for category III work involving handling potentially more hazardous micro-organisms and toxins. Two, at Porton Down and Glasgow, fulfil the rigorous conditions of category IV containment.

There is a pointer in the report to the practical benefits to medicine, agriculture, and new industrial technologies that

have been claimed as justification for genetic manipulation.

The manipulation of micro-organisms to synthesize specific biochemicals for the design of new pharmaceutical products is among the genetic techniques being used by industry.

Yesterday's report under the weakness of the scheme whereby proposals with implications for commercial property or patent protection are treated confidentially.

The information can be inspected only by those members of the advisory group who sign a confidentiality declaration and also have no relevant commercial interests.

Sealink off-peak fares cut to boost Channel traffic

By Michael Bally, Shipping Correspondent

A £20 rebate for two people and a car is British Rail Sealink's latest contribution to the threatened price war among cross-Channel ferries next season.

To attract the strikingly low price, about a fifth of the peak-season rate, the crossing has to be made in February, but lesser bargains are available for other off-peak months: £25 off the tariff price for sailings between January and March and between October and December.

Other Sealink offers include £10 off all car ferry fares to France in January and £10 off summer bookings made in January.

"The Channel may still be

the world's most expensive stretch of water," Mr David Kirby, Sealink's managing director, said in London yesterday, "but in 1980 it will be getting less so."

Peak season rates are about 15 per cent up on this year—£34 for a medium-size car and two people on a summer weekday—compared with £22 because of dearer fuel and higher wages and because the ships are expected to be full during the summer peak.

The marketing strategy for next year, the first in which operators have been free to fix fares individually after the breakdown of the traditional price-fixing arrangements, was to be to boost off-peak traffic, and so hold down the rate of inflation in fares.

Diversification of subsidized butter being investigated

High Claydon
The cases of alleged illegal diversification of the EEC butter being investigated by the Agriculture Board for Cultural Produce. The board, a section of the Civil Service which administers the non-agricultural policy in the food and drink industry, said yesterday that one had led to the present subsidy payments on diverted butter.

The board said yesterday that a company unconnected with the present investigations had been convicted early this year on a charge concerned with diversion of the butter subsidy.

by companies to make such products as sweets, cakes and biscuits.

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Third brother dies after arson at house

A third brother died yesterday in hospital from burns he received at a fire started deliberately at his home in Hull 10 days ago.

Paul Hazzle, aged 12, died in the burns unit of Pinderfield Hospital, Wakefield, where his brother Charles, aged 15, and Peter, aged eight, also died.

Another brother, Tommy, aged nine, and his mother, Mrs Edith Hazzle, aged 34, are recovering in Hull Royal Infirmary. The fire was started when paraffin was poured through the letterbox of their house in Selby Street and set alight.

Det Supt Ronald Sagar, who is in charge of the murder inquiry, said the person responsible had "effectively wiped out that little group of boys, who appear to have been somewhat mischievous in that area over quite a long period of time."

Murt case over P's 'right' to woodwork

Legal fight began at Croy County Court yesterday over a girl's right to do woodwork at school.

Whitfield, aged 14, is suing damages under the Sex Discrimination Act against the education authority, Barbara Calvert, representing the girl and her mother, Jean Whitfield, said that she missed Woodcote High School, the girl was allowed at first to take no work.

Her governing body said the girl's place. However, she would be the only mother felt that would be discriminatory. The case was adjourned.

Detective gets three years for £5,000 bribes offer

From Our Correspondent, Luton

A London detective was jailed for three years by Judge Hickman at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday for trying to bribe another officer. The case was prepared by the Scotland Yard anti-corruption squad, for which he once worked.

Det Sergeant David Barnes, aged 39, of Cuffley Hill, Cuffley, Oak, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, had denied attempting to pervert the course of justice and two charges of corruption.

The jury was told that Sergeant Barnes had offered bribes of up to £5,000 to Det Inspector Gordon Smith, of Hertfordshire,

to drop a cattle stealing charge against Patrick Loughry, a friend of Sergeant Barnes.

Det Nigel Fricker, for the defence, said: "It would appear that Barnes did what he did for a friend. This is not a cynical transaction resulting from greed. If Inspector Smith had not given the impression that he was willing to act improperly you may think nothing would have happened."

The judge said at the end of the trial: "The action of Det Inspector Smith deserves a court commendation." He spoke of the speed with which Mr Smith had acted and the integrity to be expected from a police officer.

Parliamentary guide for pressure groups

Mr Bradley
The personal assistants to the three parties are to start a monthly consultancy for pressure groups.

They are Miss Jenny Jeger, personal assistant to Mr James Callaghan, Labour leader, since 1976. Mr Wilfred Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, since 1976, and Mr Gifford, personal

assistant to Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, since 1975.

Miss Jeger said that the three, all in their late twenties, decided independently that they wanted to give up their present jobs and "the idea somehow emerged naturally of us doing something together."

The consultancy, which will start in February with offices in or around Westminster, would aim to guide industrialists, and welfare organisations through the maze of Parliament and government.

Miss Jeger said: "We want

to encourage companies to play a fuller part in the legislative process and to be more aware of its consequences. We will be helping them to communicate and teaching them how to talk to MPs."

The three will maintain their affiliations to the political parties for whose leaders they previously worked. Miss Jeger, who is on the Fabian Society's executive committee, said that their coming together was not to be taken as a sign of support for the idea of a central party or coalition.

IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER.

REVELATIONS.
We're not going to try to predict next week's exclusives. After all, we didn't know about jury vetting, or sex tests on immigrants, or the 41 railway lines British Rail want to close, until a few hours before we went to press.

But if current form is anything to go by—the cabinet discussion on P.W.R. Nuclear Power Stations, the cabinet argument over employers footing the sick pay bill, the B.R. plan for double fare rises for London commuters—then the exclusives will be there.

ILLUMINATIONS.
Naturally all our major features will be there, shedding just a little more light on things you knew and on topics you're just becoming aware of.

Everything from *Honest Bottle*, the *Arts*, *Education*, *Society Tomorrow* and *Agenda*,

to *Grassroots*, *Small Business*, *In the Gallery*, *Futures*, *Parliament* and *Out of Court*.

Plus, of course, Posy, Bryan McAllister and Gibbard, the cartoons that slice up life.

REPUTATIONS.
You've heard of our writers because they're those kind of writers. But just to remind you, Jill Tweedie, Polly Toynbee, Barry Norman, Derek Malcolm, Frank Keating, Carwyn James, Peter Jenkins, John Arlott, James Cameron, Nancy Banks-Smith, Michael Billington, Hamish McRae and Katie Stewart will all be there, refreshing the parts other seers cannot reach.

TRADITIONS.
Wit. Style. Irreverence. They've all been part of The Guardian for 150 years. Next week will be no exception.

THE GUARDIAN

Cricket

England pick Miller but not Gooch

Sir Carl Aarvold, who was re-elected president, also commented on the financial aspect. "It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that the Wimbledon surplus will go on increasing year after year. But this time, we were brought up with a jolt."

How the Mini proved its politics wrong

to take up the least amount of space on the road and to be easy to tuck-into parking spaces. Given its weight and small engine it was, in those days, the car exceptionally light on fuel – the car was chosen. It should be remembered, in the wake of the Suez crisis which had brought back petrol rationing.

Almost everything about the Mini concept has taken on a fresh relevance with the peaking of the year's sales in motorcars, most particularly prices of new cars and of petrol, - have outstripped the general increase in the cost of living. The car's originality has given it a permanent nerve and a

Another point to consider is how much less spartan is the basic Mini of 1979 compared with its equivalent of 10, or even five, years ago. Most of the driver's aids and comforts are provided, from heated rear window to outside door mirror, hazard warning lights, two-speed wipers and cloth seats. Some of those items are required by law; all the same specifications have

The first thing to be said about space in the Mini is how much there is considering the car's overall dimensions. The car may be only just a four-seater but most people can put up with squashed knees and bent necks for a short journey. The real criticism is that the Mini has not followed the example of other small cars and got itself a third door. Given that the boot is necessarily small, an obvious course would have been to fit a full length tailgate and allow the rear seat to

Those interested in reading about the Minis that never were, and in seeing what they looked like, should consult Rob Golding's book, *Mini* (Osprey, £6.95), an informative history of the model which was brought out for this year's twentieth anniversary. Sir Alec Issigonis had a replacement ready in the late 1960s, slightly bigger, with smoother styling and that railcar burr the

Peter Waymark

ENT COUNTY COUNCIL

A wide understanding of archival duties required including experience with records management procedures.

Removal and other expenses are paid in appropriate cases and temporary housing accommodation may be made available.

Further details and application form, returnable by 4 January, from the County Secretary, County Hall, Maidstone, phone (0522) 674141, Ext. 3305.

(152)

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Is a new office boom on the way?

The public inquiry which began this week into an application by European Ferries Ltd to redevelop a site at Vauxhall, on London's south bank, is further evidence that a new round of speculative office building, the first since the early 1970s, is well under way.

The company envisages a 600,000 sq ft complex, including a 30-storey tower, of which nearly two thirds would be occupied by offices. It makes no secret that it regards the scheme as an investment, and in no way connected with its own requirements.

It is only three weeks since one of the longest inquiries ever held, into proposals for the south bank between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridge, came to an end. There, one of the two main proponents, Greycoat Estates, submitted plans for a huge speculative project. An eleven-hour submission by Shell UK Ltd was disallowed by the inspector, although Shell maintains that it needs more space for its own staff.

In other parts of London, in Hammersmith for example, other large new buildings are under construction, with no obvious prospect of immediate completion.

The explanation appears to be that there is a great deal of money floating around looking for a home, and that commercial property, despite its present low yields, is seen as a "safe" investment.

What is causing concern, however, is that the new office buildings may well prove to be white elephants, on a scale that will dwarf such notorious speculations as Centre Point.

There are two main reasons for querying the potential growth of office employment in London. One is, quite simply, the probable reluctance of companies to continue paying inflated rents, and of commuters to pay ever-increasing fares to travel to work in ever-increasing discomfort.

The second, and far more significant, is the likely effect on the need for office staff. Reports, to which planners have turned a collective blind eye, suggest that, within a little as five years, the effects will be enormous.

Copiers, high speed duplicators, dictation units, audio-tape recorders, facsimile transmission systems, microfilm readers and small office computers could cause large scale redundancies among white-collar workers.

The Greater London Council is sticking to its view that it should encourage office development in "appropriate places". It is not at present worried by the prospect of over capacity, and is keen to encourage as much employment as possible in inner London.

The British Property Federation merely hopes that the present boom will not be followed by a "bust" like that of 1973. On the longer term implications, it is not prepared to comment.

John Young



Fortunately, his spirit lives on.

Only James Buchanan, regarded by many as the father of Scotch Whisky, could have composed a blend of fine whiskies so smooth and satisfying as to win the century-long devotion of his entire house.

The Buchanan Blend has now been introduced to the public in the belief that discerning whisky drinkers everywhere will appreciate its rounded excellence.



The Buchanan Blend
THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME

Next week another step towards friendship between Israel and Egypt Full steam ahead for peace

Already the Egyptians have issued visas to about 1,000 Israelis, due in part to their voracious appetite for tourism



Mr. Begin and President Sadat: a crucial test of the peace process.

Jerusalem
Specially fitted with a luxury casino, a swimming pool and a battery of fruit machines, the 5,500 ton cruise ship Melody is scheduled to sail from Haifa early next week bound for the bustling Egyptian port of Alexandria. An apparently frivolous event which in reality marks another significant step in the gradual establishment of friendly contacts between two nations which for 30 years were among the bitterest enemies in the Middle East.

On board will be more than 300 sun-seeking Israeli tourists who will be inaugurating the first Israeli cruise to her largest Arab neighbour since the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948. Providing there are no unforeseen hitches, the historic voyage is due to be followed in the New Year by a rapid increase in the pace of normalization, including the opening of land borders and the start of regular flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo.

The most significant event is scheduled to take place on February 15 when the two countries exchange ambassadors. An emotive and symbolic gesture which observers believe will sharply increase the antagonism to Egypt among the rejectionist Arab states.

Already the Israelis have selected Dr. Elihu Ben-Elissar, a former Mossad intelligence agent and close confidante of Menachem Begin, to be their first man in Cairo. The Egyptians have named yet reciprocal, although they have made it known that a team of 30 diplomats is now undergoing an intensive training course in anticipation of the opening.

Unlike the Israelis, who have named an ambassador-designate who is not fluent in Arabic, the Egyptians are expected to select a competent Hebrew speaker.

In the next few weeks the two countries will be holding secret talks about the Jewish security operation which will be required to guard the two embassy buildings, both of which will instantly become prestige targets for Palestinian terrorists and their allies from extreme left-wing groups in Europe and the Far East.

Inside Israel, the speed and sincerity with which Egypt pursues the sensitive normalization programme is being regarded as every level of society as a crucial test of the whole peace process. Under the terms of the Camp David agreements, Israel had to open proceedings by handing back large chunks of the occupied Sinai and its only oil field, which when returned last month was providing over a fifth of the country's domestic energy needs. Such moves have understandably created considerable public impatience for an Egyptian response.

In theory, the Egyptians are only committed "to enter negotiations" on the normalization of economic and cultural relations six months after Israel completes her withdrawal from the Sinai. In practice, the Egyptians may attempt to link progress on normalization with the so far vain efforts to break the deadlock in the

talks on these key subjects will in practice be speeded up, a point which will be discussed early next month when President Sadat and Mr. Begin hold their ninth Summit meeting in the Egyptian winter resort of Aswan.

On the Israeli side, the complex process of normalization is in the hands of a small and specially selected section of the foreign ministry headed by an affable Syrian-born Jew, Dr. Joseph Haddas. A determined effort is being made to keep this part of the peace process quite separate from the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, which have been put under the control of the interior ministry.

There are growing fears that the Egyptians may attempt to link progress on normalization with the so far vain efforts to break the deadlock in the

autonomy talks. Such suggestions have been vigorously denied by the Egyptians, but the Israelis have lingering doubts that President Sadat may adopt a different attitude after January 26 when he will have regained some 70 per cent of Sinai.

Away from the glare of international publicity, contacts between Egypt and Israel on a number of bread and butter issues have been taking place daily since last May when the sleepy town of El Arish became the first part of the Sinai to be handed back after 12 years of Israeli occupation.

On the positive side, successful arrangements have been made for a Bedouin Shikha to campaign and win election to the Egyptian Parliament, which he now attends from his home inside Israel. A number

of sick Egyptians have received medical treatment inside Israel and the two armies run an efficient and amicable conveyer system along a stretch of Egyptian road which links two sections of desert still in Israeli hands.

But there have also been examples of friction, often resulting from the notorious slowness of Egyptian bureaucracy and from Egyptian hostility to sometimes tactless reminders of Israel's vast technological superiority. "The Egyptians are facing a huge psychological barrier and it is one that our people have to be conscious of at all the time," explained one Israeli official. "After dreaming of humiliating Israel for 30 years, they suddenly have to adjust to being friendly with most of their Arab brothers."

Among Israelis, most of the resentment against the hand back of the Sinai has been voiced for domestic consumption.

By last month the Egyptians had issued visas to about 1,000 Israelis compared with only about 60 issued by Israel to Egyptians. The main reasons cited for the discrepancy are the relative income levels in the two countries and the voracious Israeli appetite for tourism. Many of the rejected Egyptian applications are understood to have come from people seeking work in Israel's higher wage economy. A problem which is certain to increase from January when the first movement of nationals is due to begin.

So far the mechanics of the peace process have worked as well as could be expected, but most western diplomats agree that the whole procedure is far from the smooth and different gear. The pace will be faster and the dangers of breakdown more pronounced.

For its part, the Israeli public will be waiting anxiously for Egypt to provide substance to the Camp David agreements on normalization, while the world at large will be watching with equal anxiety to see if any formula can be devised to solve the unresolved problem of the Palestinians.

Christopher Walker

Geoffrey Smith How the committees could get more weight

Select committees would force ministers to take them seriously

The new parliamentary select committees, started in a serious business this week with the Home Affairs Committee, are questioning Mr. Whitelaw for an hour on Monday and other committees deciding what topics they will investigate. The meeting with Mr. Whitelaw was particularly instructive because it illustrated both the potential strengths and weaknesses of these committees.

There was, in a quiet way, a sense of occasion. The BBC taped the whole proceedings and will presumably use substantial extracts in the new weekly hour-long radio programme on select committees starting tomorrow morning. There were more journalists and other observers than usual; and the members themselves showed how seriously they were taking the proceedings. All this was an indication of the expectations aroused by the new committees. That is one of the principal reasons for hoping that they will achieve more than the old ones.

Nonetheless, Mr. Whitelaw was not induced to say anything of consequence that the committee would not have known already. He played, as it were, a carefully defensive game. There were, indeed, few people in British politics who can say nothing so agreeably and adroitly when that suits his purpose. What was disturbing from the point of view of the new committees was that it evidently did not suit his purpose to say nothing.

One of the principal objects of a strong select committee system is to enable MPs to question ministers and senior civil servants in a way that cannot be done during the dramatic knockabout of question time. But that will be achieved only when ministers and their advisers believe that it is in their interests to have such a dialogue rather than simply fending off questions.

How can this change be brought about? Part of the answer lies simply in the quality of the work done by the committees. The more penetrating this is the more respect they will win, and the more likely it is that ministers will think it worth a bit of trouble to get on their side. It would help a lot if the committees had more specialist staff, but that is a battle that is likely to be won only gradually. It is also important that those members with the most relevant knowledge should be chosen to serve on committees. So it is unfortunate that the Conservatives should be excluding the officers of their specialist backbench committees from serving on the select committees covering their field.

The actual nominations are made by the Committee of Selection, but there is a familiar complaint that the House has had too much to do with the choice. When Mr. James Hamilton presented to the committee the Labour selection for places on the various select committees, the other Labour members present walked out because they felt that they had not been sufficiently consulted by the whips in drawing up the list. The minority parties have been treated badly. Only two of the Liberals have been given a place on a committee, and it is absurd that there is no Nationalist on either the Scottish or Welsh Committee.

It might help if the Committee of Selection itself was chosen by the respective parliamentary parties instead of by the whips. But that would not ensure reasonable representation either

for minority parties or minorities within parties. Must depend ultimately, respect for conventions, it would be wise to establish convention that a minority party should sit on the Committee of Selection, even when that is justified by the strict logic of parliamentary arithmetic. The key question, though, whether the activities of select committees are seen to be bearing in the decision-making. A legislature is a study group. Power is counted there, the power to make decisions and the power to influence them. I have gestured previously, in The 1 and elsewhere, that the select committees should be the focus of the process. Bills, which is now performed by standing committees—ad hoc committees, despite title, set up to go through individual Bill clause by clause, and so on. The select committees should also play a part in proving public expenditure.

Consolidated Fund Bill have argued, should be done for their committee stage. Each department's staff should be selected by it. It should be able to switch funds from one of a department's activities, another and to reduce the but not to increase it—the committees would in committee instruments for each department's staff. The Bill as amended would go back to the full House, the report stage in the House.

These changes would select committees a measure of real power, but there is a chance of either of them being adopted in the immediate future. So it is necessary to get at least some of the effect by other means. Employment Committee in an indication of how this should be done. It will, among things, look at the various ministries of trade union consider the overall budget, the department. The fit these activities will draw committees into the content issues surrounding the Employment Bill. It would mean that the committee scrutinize the estimates, without having the power to block or amend them.

If each select committee considers any Bill of consequence in which it is going through it clause by clause—its conclusions will influence the deliberations of the standing committee. It also prepared reports, departmental estimates, field it would give the assessments necessary if it is ever to be proper parliamentary control of public expenditure.

In each case select committees would be engaged in activities which would influence and civil servants take them seriously. This gives the committees a strength in their other functions. These arrangements would only be a first step, but there is clearly a limit to speed with which Parliament is prepared to reform itself.

Mario Mod

Will the test ban treaty ever be signed?

Another session of the Geneva negotiations over a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has just ended without any significant advance. This is disappointing because the British, American and Soviet delegations made such a promising start more than two years ago. But it is also very worrying because after a year of virtual stagnation, there is a very real fear that a treaty may never be signed.

A Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) was signed by the same three powers in 1963. This prohibited nuclear tests in the atmosphere, and since then all have been conducted underground. France and China, who did not have the facilities, refused to join in—although all French tests too have been carried out underground since their new site was opened in 1975.

In 1974 the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) which prohibited underground tests of more than 150 kilotons yield—equivalent to 150,000 tons of TNT. They also promised to keep their testing

to a minimum, without specifying what this might be.

However there has long been a case for banning tests altogether. For one thing we know little about the long-term effects of underground nuclear explosions. For another, total prohibition might help to inhibit the continuous advance in weapons technology, which serves only to complicate negotiations over arms control. A third argument is that some form of self-denial by the big powers is necessary to persuade non-nuclear weapon states to stop that way.

The second review conference of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is due next summer, and the big three badly need something to boast about by then. Between 1976 and 1978 the Russians detonated 60, the Americans 37, the French 16, the Chinese eight and the British only three. In 1978 the Soviets actually conducted more tests than in any single year since 1963. Their year after signing the TTBT in which they promised to keep to a "minimum."

Yet, after the CTBT talks

The most serious obstacle is still with the United States military

opened, the Soviets made some startling concessions. They agreed that peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE) would be covered by the treaty (these are supposedly for civil engineering purposes), and even accepted the principle of on-site inspection of suspected non-compliance with the ban.

They even agreed to have 10 seismic stations installed in their territory. Seismic stations are boreholes containing sensitive instruments which can detect and identify underground explosions, even those of very low yield. Any information could then be transmitted to the other powers, probably by simultaneous satellite transmission. The Americans agreed to have 10 also—although they wryly observed that the American media would do the job just as well.

There, the Russians threw a spanner in the works by insisting that Britain should accommodate 10 also. Britain refused on the grounds that that as all

its tests were carried out at the American underground site in Nevada, this would be absurd. Then they refused to accept the passing that at least two of the chosen sites were in territories which were no longer dependent on the United States.

All that it has offered is one seismic station at an existing site at Eskdalemuir, which they argue is more than enough if verification of the NPT is all that the Russians are after. Each site would cost up to £3m to install and about £500,000 a year to maintain, although the cost is not an important factor.

The continuing dispute over seismic stations however is only one of several factors which held up progress, and not the most important. There are far more difficulties over how much detail to work out before presenting the treaty for signature by other powers, and over provisions for renewing it after the three-year moratorium on testing which it will introduce, has expired.

But the most serious obstacle remains opposition to it in the United States, among the military for instance, where critics insist that the treaty would erode technological superiority—particularly if the Russians cheat. (The verification measures, they insist, are not

sufficient guarantee). It was to placate such critics that the length of treaty has been limited to five years. They also point out that without testing of any kind, the efficiency of stockpiled weapons could not be monitored.

These are highly controversial arguments, and President Carter remains deeply committed to the CTBT. But the President is already in difficulties over SALT-2, and is understandably reluctant to confront Congress with a still more explosive issue. It has already been said that President Carter could not hope to get the Panama Treaty, SALT-2 and CTBT past Congress during his presidency. Two out of three was the most that could hope for—and the Panama Treaty has already gone through.

So the Americans are reluctant to push ahead very fast with CTBT just now—and the Russians, also obsessed by SALT-2, seem in no hurry either. But as the SALT-2 debate in Congress draws further away, and the next Presidential election draws nearer, what are the hopes for a treaty? Edward Kennedy if elected would support it, and it is a commitment to it. But would a Republican like, say, Ronald Reagan? Some Americans are already saying that a CTBT is a lost cause for the time being—and the "time being" could last a very long time.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

ISTANBUL DIARY

left over, enough to cause an ecological disaster. Already people have been urged to avoid eating local fish, much to the dismay of the excellent fish restaurants on the European shore of the straits, which will all afford to state their reputation on the frozen variety.

The orange tongues of the fire, leaping from the gutted, blackened, and visible from the hills of Beyoglu, on and around Taksim square, the heart of the modern city. The big hotels, except one or two, that is, the 600-bed international, for instance, have been closed down for nearly five months as a result of labour troubles. The hotel's American management, exasperated by union demands of 150 or 200 per cent pay increases, simply gave up the concession and walked out.

The ground floor of this tall, now desolate building is divided into a maze of makeshift, unlicensed picket lines, proclaiming the victory of "Disk", Turkey's extreme leftist Revolutionary Labour Federation in what essentially amounted to cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

It is not the only instance. Halfway between the British Embassy and Galata Tower, another hotel has been shut for several months for similar reasons. The Pera Palace Hotel, one of Istanbul's most distinguished landmarks, built by Thomas Cook himself in the late nineteenth century, was in its heyday, the hub of this city's social life.

The hotel is now owned by a charitable society which runs a school for underprivileged children. The concessionaire of the hotel is forced to close it after a labour dispute. So, today, swathed in Disk's battered red streamers looking more like funeral drapes, this elegant building seems to be falling to pieces.

All this serves to underline the profound economic contradictions that spring from the staggering change in the population of Istanbul. It is enough to say that in the last two decades, the city's population grew from 1.5 million to nearly four million people—roughly two newcomers for every old inhabitant.

What is happening to Istanbul is a direct result of Turkey's problem of overpopulation. The country's 3.7 per cent birth rate is one of the highest in the world. It is only slightly diminished by the equally high infant mortality rate, but Turkey's population today is estimated to be 44 million rising at 2.4 per cent a year. Ex-premier Bulent Ecevit, now the Opposition leader, put it this way: "Every five years the population of a small European country is added to ours."

Istanbul has become a vast reservoir of idle manpower which is tried to its periphery by the bright city lights and the rising expectations. They settle in the shanty towns known as "Gecekondus" ("built by night") and rely on makeshift occupations like selling sesame buns or larderies or the sale of American cigarettes at Taksim, for their survival.

The "Gecekondus" have naturally become the breeding ground for terrorists of the Right and of the Left who act as pawns in a senseless game

of political violence that has already claimed 1,600 lives this year despite the martial law imposed in Istanbul and 18 other provinces one year ago.

Under the previous government martial law tended to be ineffectual and for the time being this has not changed. Under the new conservative administration of Mr. Demirel, the occasional random acts of two hunched men, parol-fingers at the sight of their machine-guns whose muzzles are uncomfortably jammed about

one metre above the ground. The armed guards at the banks and the occasional search of cars are common.

What impresses the visitor in Istanbul today is how crowded the streets are almost at any time. This reflects the 4,000 newcomers, mainly from the impoverished provinces of Turkey's south-east, who drift into town every day to set up household.

A striking contradiction here is that in a city where almost one half of the country's 2,500,000 unemployed live, the trade unions should be able to wield more power than the country's battered economy can withstand. The answer, perhaps, is that the labour unions here do not concern themselves with the jobs.

The consequences of the rapid population growth, are even more alarming if one thinks of the fact that Turkey's population today is below the age of 19, and that even if the national income rises by a healthy 7 per cent, the real growth per capita is merely one half of that because of the population increase.

All these problems are heightened by the prolonged economic crisis which has been causing acute shortages in such essentials as electricity, cooking oil and coffee. A jar of instant coffee is a gift that evokes lifelong gratitude, while every Turk who travels abroad inevitably brings back a jar of instant coffee.

Many foreigners in Istanbul insist that the only long solution to Turkey's unemployment and underdevelopment is to open the door to foreign investors and to ported technology. The country could then contribute its power as well as its vast natural resources to the very profitable partnership.

Yet there seems to be built-in aversion here, foreign participation in the domestic economy is usually attributed to "imperialism" which nineteenth century had the Christian merchant Istanbul extrajurisdictional rights and privileges which Turks considered humiliating and onerous.

Foreign businessmen long this view. They think that the reluctance to foreign capital is prompted by the fear of Turkey's industrial manufacturers of losing their market which has so far been satisfied with poor qualities that would be a petitive by foreign standards.

The steady flux of urbanization in Istanbul to engulf the small minorities—the Greeks, Armenians, the Jews and descendants of the Latin shrunk them into insular enclaves. The less assimilated the foreigner, the more gradually moving. So the Istanbul is rapidly becoming a unique place that was once so unique to the city.

Mario Mod



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GENERAL VACANCIES

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

Trinity College

LECKY CHAIR OF HISTORY

This Chair will fall vacant on 1st October, 1980, following retirement of the present holder, Professor A. J. O'Riordan. Further particulars may be obtained from:

Mr. G. B. H. Giltrap,
Secretary to the College,
West Theatre,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 772941, ext. 1123.

to whom completed applications should be sent preferably by Friday, 25th January, 1980.

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Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Community Medicine (7 sessions per week) in the University Department of Community Medicine and General Practice and Specialist in Community Medicine (10 sessions per week), Leeds at Consultant level will be sought from the Leeds Area Health Authority.

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Applications are invited to discuss the post with Professor L. D. G. Richards, Department of Community Medicine and General Practice, 32 Hyde Terrace, Leeds LS2 9LN (telephone 0533 751111).

Dr. G. E. Welch, Area Medical Officer, Leeds Area Health Authority, 17-19, Mary's House, St. Mary's Road, Leeds LS7 3JX (telephone 781111). Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, quoting reference number 86/10. A closing date for applications is 18 January 1980.

University of Bristol DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND Gynaecology Applications are invited for the post of

LOCUM LECTURER in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Further particulars and application form apply to Administrative Officer, Cancer Research Campaign, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The Queen's University of Belfast

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AND STUDENTSHIPS 1980-81

One Visiting Fellowship and a number of Visiting Studentships are available at the University from 1 October 1980 for research in any field of study. Candidates for the Visiting Fellowship should send a curriculum vitae and a letter of recommendation to the Secretary, University of Belfast, 100-102, Victoria Road, Belfast BT7 1DT.

Public notices

CITY OF EDINBURGH D.C. 1980-81. Applications for the post of Secretary to the Council of the City of Edinburgh District Council should be sent to the Secretary, City of Edinburgh District Council, 100-102, Victoria Road, Belfast BT7 1DT.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. Notice is hereby given that the Court of Probate for the County of Rockingham, New Hampshire, has received the will of the late JAMES W. BROWN, deceased, and has appointed JAMES W. BROWN, Jr., as executor of said will.

JOHN N. SOLFORD, Clerk.

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Joint development programmes strengthen Tokyo's supply prospects for oil and coal

Sino-Japanese energy deals threaten Soviet Union

Whatever impact the recent visit to China of Mr Masayoshi Ohira, Japan's Prime Minister, may have brought on regional politics, the energy development programmes either agreed or proposed during the visit are bound to drive a substantive wedge into Japan's vulnerable energy structure and affect, eventually, Japan's foreign policy.

In the eyes of observers, despite Mr Ohira's strong denial of alleged Sino-Japanese "connivance" against the Soviet Union, a political monolith sustained by economic glue may be an unavoidable development in which Peking, rather than Tokyo, will hold an upperhand and can put pressure on the Japanese efforts to diversify the supply bases of energy resources to China's advantage.

This, they say, can also spell a Chinese victory over the Soviet Union, whose proposals for jointly developing Siberian energy resources have remained, at best, unresolved for several years.

Japan depends almost entirely on overseas energy resources, in which the Middle East accounts for up to 80 per cent of oil, amounting to about 270 million tons a year. The nation imports about 30 per cent of world exports of coal (60 million tons in 1977 and 52 million tons in 1978) mostly from the United States, Canada and Australia.

Domestic production of coal was 18 million tons in 1977 and 1978 each, which satisfied only 3.2 per cent of total energy demand or

less than 20 per cent of coal consumption. Its production, which annually amounted to 50 million tons early in the early 1960s, has been steadily declining, even though the 1978 production showed a token rise from 1977 (13.24 million tons to 15.58 million tons respectively). Japan now plans to produce 20 million tons within the foreseeable future.

It is against this background that Japan has shown keen interest not only in the oil but coal of China, whose known deposit potentially available to Japan is estimated to be abundant. The availability of coal is estimated in terms of tens of billions of tons.

Insofar as arrangements for oil development are concerned, two programmes, one formalized and the other proposed, have emerged out of Mr Ohira's visit, both having development in the continental shelf.

One is development in the Pofei Bay, located in the northern area of the Chinese coastal line, while the other is to develop the neighbouring area of Senkaku Island in the East China Sea, on whose territorial jurisdiction Japan and China are in dispute.

Under the terms of agreement on the former, the project will be \$1,200m (about £540m) jointly invested by the two countries. Actual outlays, however, will be financed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan from the \$2,000m framework which has been set aside as development funds of oil and coal resources in China.

The area to be developed covers 25,000 square kilometres in the southern and western parts of the bay, with an estimated deposit of a minimum of 100 million tons. The total deposit in the whole bay area is estimated at 5,500 million barrels.

Exploration and development would take four to five years, with an estimated subsequent output of between five and 10 million tons a year, out of which Japan would be supplied 42.5 per cent.

While the proposal that the two countries jointly undertake development of resources located in the disputed area of Senkaku Island is yet to be negotiated, it is considered politically significant.

It clearly indicates that China is ready to continue shelving the territorial issue as a means of practical answer to accommodate the Japanese wish for oil. Even though later reports from Peking said that China was not as positive as was earlier reported, the situation is indicative of Chinese readiness to proceed with talks for planning.

The proposal is over and above the current planning of developing the Yellow Sea area (estimated deposit: 6,000 million barrels), East China Sea area (estimated deposit: 5,000 million barrels) and South China Sea area (estimated deposit: 9,000 million barrels) for which Japan's public corporation for petroleum development is planning joint operations with various leading foreign interests, including British Petroleum.

As to coal development, Premier Hua Gofen proposed to Premier Ohira that the two governments should jointly develop coal mine situated in the southern part of Mongolia, where the deposit for open-air excavation alone is estimated at 30,000 million tons.

Under Chairman Hua's proposal, China would produce 50 million tons a year by 1990, with Japan providing the technology and funds and China receiving a portion of output on a production sharing basis.

The proposal was further followed by another set of proposals for jointly developing eight coal mines in Shanxi and Hebei provinces, Mongolia and other areas with a total estimated output of 23 million tons per annum. They are to be undertaken by joint ventures on production sharing basis.

Political implications inherent in the proposals are not confined to bilateral Sino-Japanese relationship. They will also be direct challenge to the Soviet Union in its sense that the multi-billion dollar joint energy development programmes (Tyumen oil and natural gas and coal in Yakutsk) which, earlier in the 1970s, had appeared realistic have since either proved abortive or remained suspended.

Koji Nakamura
in Tok

Europe move to trim 'unfair' US textile export advantages

By John Huxley

Talks aimed at resolving the long-running dispute over alleged unfair advantages enjoyed by American textile manufacturers selling in Europe open in Geneva today.

United States officials are likely to be told by European Commission representatives that their dual pricing policy for oil is subsidising exports which now threaten to undermine the European man-made fibres industry.

The Commission is seeking action under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is understood that the Commission still hopes to persuade the American administration to take voluntary action to halt the flow of low-cost imports from direct action—countervailing duties or quotas—before the Council of Ministers.

Yesterday Mr Leonard Regan, president of the British Textile Confederation, and Mr Ian MacArthur, its director, lobbied British European MPs in Strasbourg. "The American assault on our market is based on distorted prices," Mr MacArthur said.

He added that, apart from causing damage to industry, artificially low prices for industry were intolerable at a time of world energy crisis.

Mr MacArthur urged the Commission to put forward proposals to counter the artificial price advantage, and the Council of Ministers to fulfil immediately the commitment to take action which it gave the

fact that formal talks are taking place after many months of what they have described as "pussyfooting", they are apprehensive about the outcome.

The industrialists feel that unless the Americans cooperate the Commission should lay the basis for some form of direct action—countervailing duties or quotas—before the Council of Ministers.

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industry in April.

So far the British Government has resisted industry requests to take unilateral action, but it will again come under pressure to do so if the Council of Ministers fails to act.

Last night man-made fibre producers voiced concern that the dispute was too tight for agreement to be reached or action taken at this month's meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Several European MPs were planning to raise the matter in Strasbourg.

United States fibre producers, faced with a depressed home market and a weak currency, began to increase exports to Europe towards the end of last year. British industrial leaders have argued that favourable oil prices in the United States were enabling producers there to operate with raw material costs as much as 33 per cent lower than in the United Kingdom.

It is accepted, however, that American producers benefit from economies of scale and other cost advantages.

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A third London airport on the east bank of the River Thames, could be built in three years and the estimate of 17 years in the report of the Study Group on South East Airports, which has been advising the Government, is grossly inaccurate, and misleading," according to Sir John Howard.

Sir John is chairman of Thames Estuary Development, a group which includes civil engineering and property companies, Southend Corporation, Shell and Tino-Zinc, and which published yesterday a plan to develop Maplin jointly between Government and private enterprise at a cost of £560m.

That compared, he said, with a cost of £1,100m for Stansted, one of the six inland sites short-listed, and the one most favoured in the Department of Trade.

Under the new plan 3,000 acres would be reclaimed for a two-runway airport, largely from sandbanks.

"There is plenty of money available in the City of London for the project", Sir John said.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in October, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1975=100).

	Total Industries	Total Manufacturing Industries
1978		
Sept	110.8	104.4
Oct	109.3	102.5
Nov	108.9	102.8
Dec	111.6	103.9
1979		
Jan	103.7	93.3
Feb	111.8	104.3
March	113.1	107.5
April	114.2	106.7
May	115.4	107.1
June	117.5	108.6
July	117.3	107.4
Aug	111.7	103.1
Sept	110.7	102.0
Oct	113	104.6

% rise in latest 3 months over previous 3 months -3.9 -4.0

RETAIL SALES

The following are the figures for the volume and value retail sales released by the Department of Trade.

	Sales by volume (seasonally adjusted) 1971=100	Sales by value (not seasonally adjusted) % change on year earlier
1978		
3rd qtr	110.7	+14
4th qtr	111.7	+14
1979		
1st qtr	110.3	+13
2nd qtr	116.7	+17
3rd qtr	110.1	+13
Aug	111.5	+13
Sept	110.0	+14
Oct	111.4(r)	+15
Nov	113.6(p)	+17(p)

(r) revised (p) provisional

£400m trade centre plan for London's dockland

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

New leading powers proposed under the Local Government Planning and Land Bill could finally enable the £55m first phase of a trade mart at the derelict Surrey Docks, a mile downstream from London's Tower Bridge, to get off the ground next year.

This is the conclusion of Mr Trammell Crow, the Texas property developer, who has a highly successful trade mart in Dallas covering 7 million square feet and another in Brussels.

He has just completed a London visit designed to assess the prospects for the Surrey Docks scheme, for which he already has planning permission for six stores of showrooms and other facilities amounting to 1.3 million square feet.

It would give London a permanent trade exhibition centre that would rival anything in Europe, and the first phase should produce up to 3,000 jobs.

A further 4.7 million square feet would eventually follow, bringing the number of jobs created probably to 12,000.

The Trammell Crow organisation put up the Surrey Docks scheme in 1973 but it fell through because loan guarantees were not forthcoming from Greater London Council (which was in favour but lacked the powers) or from the Department of the Environment under the Labour Government.

But under the Land Bill, which could be on the Statute Book by mid-1980, the department is now clearing the way for the scheme.

Mr Crow commented: "On that reading there should be no problem in getting the project rolling by the end of the year." It would solve the problem inherent in the Trammell Crow operation of relying on securing largely outside financial backing for its own expertise in setting up a trade mart.

The Brussels venture to which the Surrey Docks scheme is linked, through a 1.5m sq ft and has comfortably passed the 75 per cent break-even point.

Studies are likely soon to further expansion there, London is seen as being a bigger operation. Mr Crow believes it might eventually reach 10 million square ft.

Investment in London could rise eventually to about £400 according to Mr Crow.

The advantages claimed by the US-style trade mart is particularly for small- to medium-sized buyers it is able to order a wide range of goods under one roof with under normal trade fair conditions could mean a series visits spread over a year.

Our pre-tax profit of £8.3 million compares with £7.5 million last year and is more than double the level of five years ago. The gross dividend is up by just over 15% making an increase of 39% over the last two years.

We have carried out a revaluation of our properties which shows a surplus of £24 million over their book values.

Finance charges at £1.5 million increased by nearly 50% reflecting the heavy capital spending programme which we believe is necessary to ensure that we have the capacity to meet hoped for levels of sales in the future.

Our performance this year has been good in England both at Sunderland and at S. H. Ward in Sheffield where beer sales and profits advanced, and at W. M. Darley, who contributed £212,000 following their acquisition in 1978. In Scotland, however, the disappointing trend apparent towards the end of last year continued throughout much of the year. Liefman's in Belgium achieved record beer sales despite a very flat overall market.

For the first eight months of the year, Swallow Hotels continued to make good progress but the summer sales were disappointing with a marked decline in tourist business, particularly from overseas.

We invested £15.7 million during the year including the acquisition of Darley's (£3.1 million) and The Hilltop Hotel (£1.5 million). Expenditure on our breweries includes a new processing block in Sunderland and 12 tower fermenters in Edinburg, designed to improve quality control and give more capacity, particularly for lager. We completed bedroom extensions in four hotels and work is taking place in three others. We spent £1.7 million in improving our pubs including the opening of a new pub in Getsehead and the acquisition of a pub in Sheffield.

I believe that in the Vaux group we work together better than most of our competitors. We now have a profit sharing scheme for all full-time employees of more than two years' service. We believe that a great deal more has to be done to develop a sense of common purpose by those working for us and we are still working towards this.

We are well positioned in most of our markets without the disadvantage of being too big to lose touch with our customers or too small to be able to compete on level terms. Although I believe that we are in for difficult trading conditions until the economy starts to pick up, I am more hopeful for the long term future especially as we are no longer artificially shackled as to prices, wages and dividends.



Mr Trammell Crow: "the project could be rolling by the end of the year."

projected cost of development or half the estimated value of the completed development.

Mr Crow estimates that this could mean a financing of the project's first phase by raising 60 per cent of the costs from the development corporation, 10 per cent from his own resources and the remainder from banks and institutions. Subsequent growth could be self-financed by the mart, it is claimed.

Mr Crow commented: "On that reading there should be no problem in getting the project rolling by the end of the year." It would solve the problem inherent in the Trammell Crow operation of relying on securing largely outside financial backing for its own expertise in setting up a trade mart.

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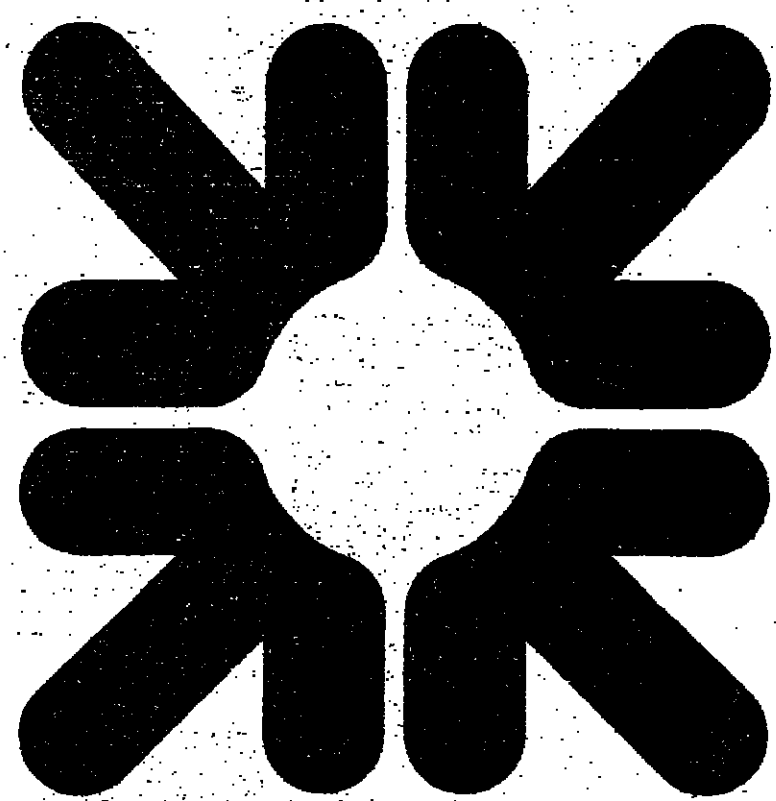
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The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

(formerly National and Commercial Banking Group Limited)

✱ The Results

	1979	1978 restated	% increase
Profit before taxation	£96.6m	£68.3m	42
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	£61.2m	£41.4m	48
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	27.3p	18.1p	51
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	3.92p	2.94p	33
Deposits and customers' current accounts (including notes in circulation)	£4,542m	£3,976m	14
Total assets	£5,175m	£4,445m	16

The improved results of the Group for the year to 30th September, 1979 reflected the higher level of interest rates and increased resources and advances on the one hand but a significant increase in costs on the other.

The operating profit of the Royal Bank of Scotland, one of the two main subsidiaries, increased by 25% to £49.0m; the range of customer services has continued to grow as has the development of its international operations. The other subsidiary, Williams & Glyn's Bank, had an operating profit 63% higher at £47.4m; the extension and development of its branch network has continued with improved services for domestic customers.

The new Government's economic strategy places considerable reliance on monetary policy and the banks are accordingly nearer the centre of the stage. It would be tragic if such increases in bank lending that are possible in these tight monetary conditions are used to finance exorbitant wage settlements rather than to underpin output and employment in what promises to be a

difficult year for the economy. In the longer term, containment of inflation and the achievement of sustained economic recovery must depend not just on Government policy but on considerable changes in attitude throughout industry and commerce.

I expressed concern last year about growing Government intervention, particularly in the banking industry. I am delighted to see some reversal of this disturbing trend—witness the abolition of exchange and price controls and welcome signs that official monetary management may, before long, give more scope for the free play of market forces.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group will do its utmost to effect further improvements in efficiency as a firm base for the expansion of our domestic and international business in the fiercely competitive banking environment of the 1980s.

16th November 1979

Michael Herries,
Chairman

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group is Britain's fifth largest clearing bank group. Its name was changed from National and Commercial Banking Group Limited on 3rd September to conform with the provisions of the Banking Act 1979.

The Group was formed in 1968, and its two main operating arms are the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's Bank. The combined strength of the two banks provides some 900 offices from Lerwick in the Shetlands to the Channel Islands.

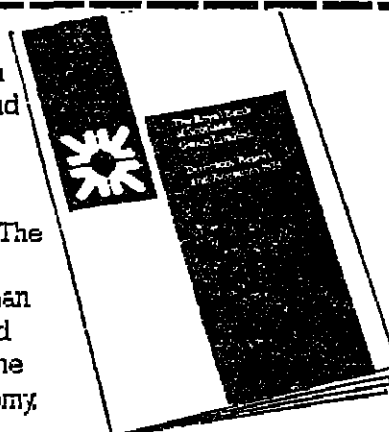
The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, established by Royal Charter in 1727, is Scotland's largest bank. It has pioneered many banking developments and provides a wide range of financial services in the UK

and overseas to meet modern needs.

Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, whose origins go back over 300 years, is one of the major English clearing banks. As well as providing all the normal banking services, the bank prides itself on its attention to personal service, on its expertise in modern banking techniques, and on its extensive overseas connections through the Inter-Alpha group of European banks.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group has grown through its ability to satisfy the developing needs of its customers—industry, commerce and the private individual. Under its new name the Group will endeavour to provide the same efficient service that it has done in the past.

If you complete and forward to us the coupon we should be glad to send you a copy of the 1979 Annual Report and Accounts, on which this advertisement is based. The Report contains the full statement by the Chairman and includes graphic and pictorial information on the Group and the UK economy.

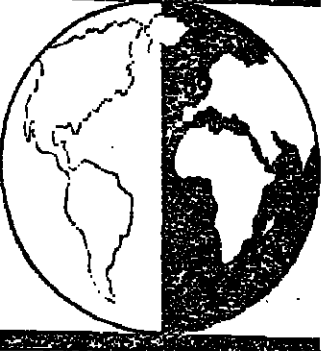


To the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited, 36 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE.

Please forward a copy of the 1979 Report and Accounts.

Name

Address



£4.7m from Japan for project with Saudis

Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund will invest 2,700m yen (about £4.7m) in the Japan-Saudi Arabia Mechanical Co., which is involved in a joint project in Saudi Arabia to produce methyl alcohol.

The fund will have a 30 per cent stake in the company, and the building of a plant at Al Jubayl on the mid-east Gulf is upgraded to a Japanese national project.

The company, organized by five Japanese groups, has an equal stake with the state-run Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation in a \$270m (about £120m) project to build a plant to produce 600,000 tonnes of methyl alcohol annually.

Building will start early next year, and 85 per cent of the output will be supplied to Japan and the Asian market.

Oslo statistics
Norway's wholesale price index stood at 119 points by the end of November, up 0.9 per cent from 118 the previous month (1977=100), the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. The industrial production index rose 0.6 per cent from October to November.

Greek shippers reply
Greek shippers are trying to improve their image after coming under sharp criticism for a poor safety record and charges of modern-day piracy. They claim competitors are trying to steal business by spreading bad publicity.

Union wants 18 pc
The Baden-Wuerttemberg branch of the West German Metalworkers Union, IG Metall, demands wage increases of 10 per cent next year, Herr Franz Steinkuehler, the branch leader says.

Italian inflation eases
Signs that the Italian inflation rate might be slackening came with an announcement by the government statistics office that November's monthly increase in the cost of living index was 1.3 per cent, against 2.3 and 2.5 per cent in October and September.

Tokyo ship orders fall
Foreign shipbuilding orders received by Japanese shipyards in November fell to 21 ships totalling 344,100 gross tons from 29 and 948,300 tons in October, but up from 16 and 141,500 tons a year earlier, the Japan Ship Exporters' Association said.

Merseyside hit again as further jobs go in the new year

Lucas Girling trims factory by nearly a third

Another damaging blow to Merseyside's rapidly deteriorating employment situation was delivered yesterday when the Lucas Girling factory at Bromborough announced that it would cut its labour force by 450 in the new year.

Only 30 of the jobs that are to go will be accounted for by natural wastage. For the rest, it will be compulsory redundancy as the factory's present labour force of 1,450 is reduced by 29 per cent.

Representatives of six unions in the plant, which makes disc brakes for cars and some railway brakes, were given the news after many months of negotiations with the management over manning and productivity levels.

However, there were clear signs yesterday that the unions were preparing to fight the redundancies. Shop stewards are understood to have drawn up a document for circulation to all workers, calling for opposition to the cuts.

A management spokesman said: "We must emphasize that there has been an enormous amount of consultation with the unions over the Bromborough plant. It has been going on for many months. We have stressed from the outset that there was overmanning and an urgent need to improve productivity."

Although there has been some response, the productivity levels have remained less than satisfactory, and the alternative to these reductions in the labour force could be only a total shutdown at Bromborough, with the loss of all 1,450 jobs.

The Merseyside plant has suffered from a number of serious industrial disputes. During the summer, the management stressed to the unions the need to reduce the workforce but said it believed this could be achieved through natural wastage if there was agreement.

The background to Girling's problems on Merseyside is a sharp fall in demand for its products by British and European vehicle manufacturers, with increasingly strong foreign competition.

The management spokesman said: "We have arrived at the present position only after a long struggle to reduce costs and improve output, and we have constantly been stressing that this was the only way to secure the future of the factory."

There is a surplus of brake manufacturing capacity throughout the world, and it is essential that we remain competitive. In spite of the company's warning of the possibility of closure there seems little prospect, against the current Merseyside

unemployment background, of the cuts being accepted without another union and political uproar.

Unemployment on Merseyside is running at more than 12.5 per cent, and this latest blow comes on top of a number of big industrial closures including the recent shutdown of the Airfix Industries toy factory at Kirkby, which has led to a strike by 940 workers whose jobs have been lost.

Lucas Girling is taking pains to ensure that it is seen to be carrying out full consultative and notice procedures and so try to avoid the sort of storm that has broken over the heads of the Airfix management.

Nevertheless the company is likely to find itself pitched into the centre of the political storm as another element in the protest lobby gaining momentum over Merseyside's industrial plight.

The six unions in the Bromborough plant comprise the three largest—Electric, Transport and General Workers', the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the General and Municipal Workers'—together with the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the AEUW, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

R. W. Shakespeare

Coal may soon be main cargo

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Coal could outstrip oil as the most important seaborne commodity by the year 2000, a speaker at a London conference on bulk-carriers said yesterday.

The rapidly rising demand for coal as a substitute for oil could lead to a major shortage of the fuel by the year 2000, said Mr. Michael Ratcliffe, publisher of Lloyd's Shipping Economist predicted. His publication organized the conference.

But after burning their fingers so badly over tankers in the early Seventies banks would be wary of lending too much to the wrong owners. This, together with a shortage of cash among owners, suggested there would be no rush to place mass orders for tonnage, even though good growth prospects for ore and grain as well as coal meant long-term prospects for dry-bulk-carriers were "very bright indeed."

Japan now accounts for 35 per cent of world dry bulk imports, but Mr Ratcliffe questioned whether past economic growth could be maintained in the light of higher oil prices and competition from other Far East countries.

It was also becoming increasingly obvious that Russian industry and agriculture were not performing as planned, with oil, coal, and grain all failing to meet their targets. Polish coal was therefore likely to be diverted to Russia.

"The Soviets and their satellites will become more, rather than less dependent on the West, and this must have major political and economic repercussions," Mr Ratcliffe said.

Mr Frank Narby, of Euro-Canadian Shipholdings, said that fuel price rises meant present slow speeds at sea were here to stay.

Rhodesian tobacco influx may cut prices

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The entry on to world markets of Rhodesian tobacco, which at the time of UDI had been accounting on average for 25 per cent of Britain's supplies of raw tobacco, could stabilise tobacco prices and possibly reduce them.

This was the expectation of the British tobacco industry yesterday as the lifting of trade sanctions opened the way for tobacco sales from Southern Rhodesia.

Since UDI in 1965, Rhodesian tobacco has found its way on to various markets, including some on the Continent. Considerable sales have been made in Eastern European countries and to Russia, it is believed.

But British tobacco manufacturers are not expected to move quickly towards buying in the Rhodesian market. A great deal will depend on the price and quality of the crop now produced there.

The Imperial Group, whose chairman and chief executive is Sir John Pile, has assets including processing plant in Southern Rhodesia which had a capital value at UDI of around £3m.

The group is likely to be the first to send representatives, since the plant, part of its African Leaf Organization, has been kept on a care and maintenance basis and believed to be in good condition. Some forestry holdings appear to have suffered damage, however.

In the last year before UDI, Southern Rhodesian tobacco, which had a high reputation as a quality flue-cured leaf of the Virginia type, accounted for 32 per cent of tobacco coming into the United Kingdom market. On average it supplied 25 per cent of British demand.

It was difficult at first for British manufacturers to cope with the sudden cut-off in the



Sir John Pile, Imperial Group's chairman and chief executive.

supply of flue-cured tobacco, and there was a heavy reliance at first on United States sources. But India took up some of the slack, rising from about 11 per cent to 25 per cent of supply and the United States and Canada each have a 25 per cent share.

A variety of other sources were developed, including Brazil, Zambia, Tanzania, Pakistan and South Korea. British manufacturers therefore have no special need to switch back to Rhodesian supplies, although a switch could be made comparatively quickly because not many long-term contracts are involved in tobacco-buying.

Some estimates have put Rhodesian tobacco production during the 1970s at under 100 million lbs a year, but if stability remains in the country and it keeps its high expertise, the crop could rise considerably above this figure. Land and climate are both excellent for tobacco-growing, and some estimates put the annual possible crop as high as 300 million lbs.

Last month's weekly average production amounted to 34,400 tonnes, which, although below the previous month's output, was marginally above the levels achieved in November last year.

Over the first 11 months of this year, weekly average production has been running at 418,700 tonnes, which was 6.4 per cent higher than levels achieved in the same period of 1978.

In the six months from March this year, steel demand on the domestic market totalled 8.3 million tonnes but this has declined to a forecast level of 7.3 million tonnes for the second half of the year. The most pronounced fall in demand occurred in the flat products sector.

Other European steel producers are beginning to feel the effects of the downturn although not to the same extent as the United Kingdom producers.

OECD talks on plight of world steel
Paris, Dec 13
The Steel Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development met today for what was described as its first "intensive" meeting since it was formed just over a year ago.

Individual members reported on the situation in the industry in their own country and a long time was spent hearing about the difficulties facing the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Robert Hornum, the deputy United States trade representative, who was chairman of the meeting, said the reports revealed that the state of the industry in the world was extremely patchy, with some countries doing well and others, such as those in the European Community and the United States, doing badly.

This, he said, was shown to be due to the domestic structure of the industry and to the economic activity in each country.

A major factor in the decline of the industry has been the fall in motor car sales and production, which in turn was due to the energy crisis.

He discussed reports that the United States was taking anti-dumping measures to keep out European steel imports from the start of next year. No petition for this had even been filed, he said.

Private steel sector backs BSC cuts

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Britain's private sector steel-makers yesterday backed the drastic cutbacks in capacity and jobs being implemented by the British Steel Corporation.

Dr Donald Hardwick, president of the British Independent Steel Producers Association, said that the plans were of fundamental importance to BSC, to the country, and to the welfare of the private sector producers.

BSC, which plans to cut capacity to 15 million tonnes a year from 21.6 million tonnes, has shed more than 30,000 jobs since the start of the year. It is the private sector as well as being a competitor and important customer.

"Any major change in the direction in which BSC is travelling cannot be of great importance to our companies and it behoves us to support them and wish them well in their monumental task," said Dr Hardwick, addressing the annual luncheon of BISPA.

He said the organization had always believed it vital for private sector companies to deal with a genuinely profitable BSC rather than with the "grey shadow" which prolonged subsidies created.

Cutbacks planned by British Steel are based on a smaller scale by private steelmakers. A number have already announced redundancies against a background of falling demand, although over the past decade the independent steelmakers have achieved an annual production level of between 3 million and 3.5 million tonnes.

Against the gloomy economic backdrop for major steel using industries, BSC and BISPA last night published latest production figures showing that crude steel production dipped by just over 1 per cent last month compared with the levels achieved in October.

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Aims of forum proposed by BIM

From the Director General of the British Institute of Management

Sir, Paul Routledge's first class analysis of the current situation in the wage bargaining round (December 9) referred to the outlook for an economic forum "which would lay down guidelines for pay each year" as being "not good". Obviously, his judgment on this point must be respected. But it is important that your readers should understand that the British Institute of Management's proposal for a forum does not envisage that the parties involved should meet with the object of laying down pay guidelines. We have made this abundantly clear in lengthy discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Our intention in the forum proposal is different. It is to provide all the relevant organizations with an opportunity to discuss the basis of the wage bargaining round, to exchange views on the economic situation, the effects of current economic policies, trends in activity, and the mix of public-private collaboration and competition. Both management and labour must exercise if we are to achieve economic recovery. In a non-interven-

tionist environment, that mix is vital. In this last area, we would expect there to be a free discussion of pay round prospects—economic factors, attitudes, options and consequences. But this is by no means the sole purpose of bringing together a grouping of national representatives of employers, unions, managers, consumers and government, meeting once or twice a year to argue the case, to see if areas of common perception as to the nature of our problems—if not common ground—exist within which employer, manager and trade union activity can be exercised. If there are no areas of common perception, then the differences in understanding and in proposed action should be made clear to all.

The reason why we attach so much importance to this kind of publicly observed discussion during a period of government disengagement is that there is a gap in the network of communications which has to convey to people in their many roles the nation's problems, industry's position and the attitudes of the new Government. Political speeches can be held

From Mr Peter Green
Sir, With reference to the current surplus of sugar in the EEC, would this not be an ideal opportunity to start a European gasohol industry?

The conversion of sugar beet and sugar cane into alcohol is a relatively simple process and sugar is a waste product of the sugar industry. It is a proposition worth today's oil prices.

This process is used extensively in Brazil with 20 per cent of the country's gasoline requirements coming from this source. There are plans to increase production substantially and next year 300,000 cars will be constructed to run solely on alcohol.

Surely, this potential source of energy should not be wasted and the mountains of sugar which would be transformed into lakes of gasohol.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GREEN,
Maison Silence
3920 Zermatt
Valais
Switzerland
Dec 6

Selling TV advertising time
From Mr Kenneth Miles
Sir, I was very interested to read Mr Simmens' letter (December 7), proposing an ingenious method for improving the sale of television advertising time. I don't think his proposal would actually work, because each unit of advertising time is quite different, whereas each unit of a conventional commodity is virtually equal.

Furthermore, the value of each TV airtime unit fluctuates (quite separately from other units) right up to the moment of transmission because of the alternative programmes on other channels or other competing attractions. An auction two or three months ahead would therefore be something of a lottery.

But the particular interest of Mr Simmens' letter comes from the fact that he shows that there are indeed other ways of selling TV airtime—there is absolutely no need for the "lottery" of the unfair and unsatisfactory "grove" which has become a staple of television contractors' and advertisers' minds. I don't think his proposal would actually work, because each unit of advertising time is quite different, whereas each unit of a conventional commodity is virtually equal.

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From Mr J. M. Beckett
Sir, Lord Campbell, chairman of the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association, suggests (December 1) that the expansion of the UK beer sugar industry is a threat to the entry of ACP sugar to the UK.

How long will Lord Campbell go on citing windmills? British Sugar has publicly stated that the entry of 1.3 million tonnes of ACP sugar to the EEC (and 1.2 million of this to the UK in fact) is an obligation which it cannot ignore. Community funds labour.

Our view is that there is room for ACP sugar and British-grown beer sugar in the UK market. The ACP interests seem so obsessed with attacking us that they prefer to welcome EEC assistance rather than to compete with them.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. BECKETT,
British Sugar Corporation Limited,
PO Box 26, Oundle Road,
Peterborough PE2 9QU.
December 7.

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Letters to the Editor

From the Director General of the British Institute of Management

Sir, Paul Routledge's first class analysis of the current situation in the wage bargaining round (December 9) referred to the outlook for an economic forum "which would lay down guidelines for pay each year" as being "not good". Obviously, his judgment on this point must be respected. But it is important that your readers should understand that the British Institute of Management's proposal for a forum does not envisage that the parties involved should meet with the object of laying down pay guidelines. We have made this abundantly clear in lengthy discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Our intention in the forum proposal is different. It is to provide all the relevant organizations with an opportunity to discuss the basis of the wage bargaining round, to exchange views on the economic situation, the effects of current economic policies, trends in activity, and the mix of public-private collaboration and competition. Both management and labour must exercise if we are to achieve economic recovery. In a non-interven-

tionist environment, that mix is vital. In this last area, we would expect there to be a free discussion of pay round prospects—economic factors, attitudes, options and consequences. But this is by no means the sole purpose of bringing together a grouping of national representatives of employers, unions, managers, consumers and government, meeting once or twice a year to argue the case, to see if areas of common perception as to the nature of our problems—if not common ground—exist within which employer, manager and trade union activity can be exercised. If there are no areas of common perception, then the differences in understanding and in proposed action should be made clear to all.

The reason why we attach so much importance to this kind of publicly observed discussion during a period of government disengagement is that there is a gap in the network of communications which has to convey to people in their many roles the nation's problems, industry's position and the attitudes of the new Government. Political speeches can be held

From Mr J. M. Beckett
Sir, Lord Campbell, chairman of the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association, suggests (December 1) that the expansion of the UK beer sugar industry is a threat to the entry of ACP sugar to the UK.

How long will Lord Campbell go on citing windmills? British Sugar has publicly stated that the entry of 1.3 million tonnes of ACP sugar to the EEC (and 1.2 million of this to the UK in fact) is an obligation which it cannot ignore. Community funds labour.

Our view is that there is room for ACP sugar and British-grown beer sugar in the UK market. The ACP interests seem so obsessed with attacking us that they prefer to welcome EEC assistance rather than to compete with them.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. BECKETT,
British Sugar Corporation Limited,
PO Box 26, Oundle Road,
Peterborough PE2 9QU.
December 7.

Selling TV advertising time
From Mr Kenneth Miles
Sir, I was very interested to read Mr Simmens' letter (December 7), proposing an ingenious method for improving the sale of television advertising time. I don't think his proposal would actually work, because each unit of advertising time is quite different, whereas each unit of a conventional commodity is virtually equal.

Furthermore, the value of each TV airtime unit fluctuates (quite separately from other units) right up to the moment of transmission because of the alternative programmes on other channels or other competing attractions. An auction two or three months ahead would therefore be something of a lottery.

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Wilkinson Match

Interim Statement

Six months ended 30th September 1979

"Depressed results as forecast by the Board. Despite the poor

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

DCL falters at the interim

when Distillers' rehabilitation was started, the whisky group had been set back on its heels by disappointing half-year results. Pre-tax profits fell back to £80.8m and the group's own forecast suggests a full-year outturn changed from 1978-79's £180m to £160m with earlier hopes that it would top £200m.

However reasonable the explanations for the setback, there must be more concern. DCL is facing tougher times. Volume in the United Kingdom was down and the group is clearly losing market share. And as DCL's geographical and product mix is working against it, the immediate cause of the shortfall, however the £9m loss in trading profits, industrial disputes, distributors' stocks, some of the sting out of this but perhaps the drop has gone irretrievably. Elsewhere the United States has been jolly soft with industry statistics showing whisky shipments 9 per cent down and experience has amply reflected this, the recent price increases being completely offset by currency movements. DCL also has been hit hard in other important areas—Venezuela in particular where sales by around 44 per cent but areas like Australia and Spain have almost as poor.

Interest rates look as though they will keep distributors' stocks low in the half while consumer spending is under pressure in all DCL's major markets. Interim dividend is an unchanged 4.29p DCL clearly feels that the one third last year was enough to satisfy holders.

And there is scope for perhaps a 10 per cent rise this year which still leaves the group at a current cost basis looking comfortable. A p/e ratio of 9 at 2040, down 7p from 10, and a likely yield of 7.6 per cent about right for the moment, but DCL cannot afford to disappoint again.

Waiting for an 'B' move

profits up 22 per cent to £45.7m, a 10 per cent dividend increase and the use of a four-for-one share split to give marketability, ICL has set the scene for a forthcoming sale by the group of its 25 per cent equity stake. Its part ICL is pressing for a widely-placed operation as the best means possible while at least publicly regarding the ICL overhang as a minor headache. The NEB factor, the shares cannot reflect all the excitement of an elec-



Sir Leslie Chappell, who will succeed Mr Tom as chairman of ICL in February.

s growth stock tempered only some by lingering fears about ICL's ability to carry out the effects of recession on the industry in general.

The shares up 17p to 463p, the company are underlined by a yield of 3.7 per cent—covered more than six times and a tax-free p/e ratio of something under

There can be little doubt that ICL will find the going tougher next year. Indeed outside the important United Kingdom and Europe where growth has been in the 30 per cent range profits already have a flat look about them.

How the giants will react to increasingly competitive conditions remains to be seen, but IBM has already shown how it can use its muscle by setting compatible-use (pseudo-IBM machines) manufacturers on the run via the introduction of a new series. Overall, however, ICL seems to have the best niche in the market place with non-compatible systems and a powerful European customer base.

Growth prospects for the group in the 15 to 18 per cent range still seem realistic on a long-term view and the shares would seem to be only waiting on the NEB for a move on to higher ground.

ACC After the strike

Underlying profits at Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation look strong. Despite the television strike which fell exactly into the reporting period, profits for the first half dropped only £400,000 to £6.11m. Music publishing goes well although records are suffering from the general blight. Property and Ansafone did well and ATV, the Midlands television franchise, can be expected to make up for lost time in the second half.

Films, however, represent the risk/reward debate at ACC. Last year they contributed £2.25m to overall profits of £16.3m, way behind television (£6.29m) and some way behind property, theatres and music publishing. But these figures disguise the heavy borrowing and high risks in film production.

Bank borrowings last year were £30m. ACC is releasing the Muppets feature film—Lord Grade calls a "blockbuster"—and is set on becoming one of the world's major producers and distributors. Much, however, depends on the judgment of Lord Grade, now 72.

Still, no film flop is on the horizon, and Lord Grade points to the infallibility of his own judgment and his less subjective ability to discount contracts as safeguards.

On the trend indicated by these interim figures ACC is heading for at least £20m in the full year, but the interim dividend was held at 4.43p, which left the market a little cold so the shares were static at 112p.

Wilkinson Match

Allegheny in the background

The Allegheny Ludlum Ink which has expanded the profitable safety and protection side of Wilkinson Match is the only bright spot in a pretty dreadful set of interim figures.

Stripping out the £1.6m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's interest in a Brazilian factory, profits have been more than halved to £4.8m in the 6 months and the outlook for the full year is not much brighter.

The personal products division, which takes in razor blades and sunglasses, lost £2.6m. Wilkinson was left in limbo when the shaving market polarized between cheap disposable razors and top quality shavers, while the launch of its new "Profile" razor was delayed by the engineering and television strikes earlier this year.

Matches and lighters are also posing demand problems following the increase in VAT which hit cigarette sales. This is likely to be temporary, though Wilkinson's decision to close its London match factory, at a cost of £2m, suggests that it sees permanent changes in the market. Meanwhile, net borrowings have increased to around £9m.

Wilkinson has marginally increased the dividend to 6.4p and a similar rise at the share dividend implies a yield of 12 per cent with the shares down 5p to 338p yesterday. Given a p/e ratio of around 10, the possibility of a full scale bid from Allegheny is not in the price.

The world's oil exporters meet in Caracas next week to fix prices. Nicholas Hirst reports

Will the hawks win this time?



Shaikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah (left) and Ali Akbar Moftari, respectively the Kuwaiti and Iranian oil ministers, key men at the Caracas talks.

The outlook for the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) starting in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday, has changed radically in the past few days.

It had seemed that the moderate countries—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Qatar—stood little chance of being able to bring some desperately needed order back to the international oil markets.

The action of Iran in cutting back its production from some 10 per cent to 6 per cent of the western world's consumption had so reinforced the power of oil producers to charge almost what they liked for supplies that it had made the official pricing structure of Opec irrelevant.

Not much more than a year ago Opec was in danger of splitting apart because of the strains caused by discounted prices and a glut of oil on its members' very different economies and political systems. The strains this time have been caused by the opposite circumstances—a degree of uncertainty over future supplies, coupled with a demand not easily met, which has driven purchasers to pay prices so high that they are once again threatening the stability of western economies.

The worry that oil prices or a lack of supplies could threaten the political stability of the West has long been an important factor in the calculations of the vehemently anti-Communist regime in Saudi Arabia.

Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, might like to keep politics out of pricing decisions, but he cannot ignore the surge in Islamic feeling throughout the Middle East and the failure of the Camp David accord to make any real progress towards solving the Palestinian question. All these have their effect on pricing and supply policies.

Whatever the Saudis may think of the regime of the Shah, the Iranian oil minister, however they, and their allies in Opec, may both fear and deplore the holding of the

American hostages in the Tehran embassy—the fact is that Iran has grabbed the initiative over oil policy.

Ali Akbar Moftari, its oil minister, is going to Caracas with a brief to persuade other countries to follow its lead in cutting back supplies. From all their actions it is evident that Iran has no interest, and sees no self-interest, in helping the West. Its troubles in Iran are pushed through on the back of rising world demand and an embargo and savage production cuts at the time of the Yom Kippur war. The disintegration of the Shah's government is a sure sign that the fall of the Shah has been caused by the lack of oil from Iran and the threat of further cutbacks next year.

For five years between 1974 and 1979 Opec held back from cutting production to create a surplus of supply. Saudi Arabia, bent on moderate

policies, could always prevent it happening by flooding the market with its own production. With Iran having made its cuts Saudi Arabia's spare capacity of two million barrels a day is insufficient to have the desired effect.

Had Opec 12 months ago, realized that the strikes by the workers in the oil fields and the growing Islamic militancy of the population at large was to sap the Shah and change the political order of the Middle East it might have lifted prices to a level which could have been maintained as a sensible structure throughout 1979. As it was, the troubles in Iran merely allowed a rise which kept the members together. Iran had in fact come to the rescue of an organization beginning to learn hard lessons about market forces.

Led by Iran, contracts with the multinational oil companies have been withdrawn. Libya, promising cuts to multinationals for 1980, brought them forward to this month. Iraq has been selling on government-to-government deals. Saudi and BP negotiating in Iran are reported to

have been asked for \$36 a barrel for their supplies.

Overall, possibly up to 20 per cent of Opec's oil has been sold on the spot market or at spot market related prices. At the International Energy Agency meeting in Paris earlier this week, Mr David Howell, the British Secretary of State for Energy, was seeking general agreement among consuming nations to identify and discourage companies from paying prices fixed at a higher level than the official Opec levels.

His pleas were as much for consumption by Opec as by the oil companies. The IEA committee stressed that Opec could pursue policies which would "contribute to stabilization of conditions in the world oil market and world economy".

With the isolation of Saudi Arabia trying to moderate price increases throughout the year by selling at \$15 a barrel, and increasingly, from the point of view of other Opec members seen as undercutting their position, the chance of stable prices next year seemed slim. Saudi Arabia was regarded as wrong-headed on two counts:

Not only was it selling its oil too cheaply, it was also selling too much of it. Its long-term production ceiling of 81 million barrels a day had been raised to 91 million barrels a day to ease the world shortages. Had it gone to Caracas trying to maintain both positions, the chances of an agreement would have been slim indeed.

Its reported decision this week to increase the price of its light crude, the benchmark from which all other Opec prices are fixed, from \$18 a barrel to \$24 (a price which would also be fixed by Qatar, Venezuela and the UAE) may take a lot of the heat out of discussions next week.

The importance of the change is psychological, by breaking through the upper limit of \$23.50 fixed at the Geneva conference earlier this year. Saudi Arabia will be seen to have moved from its extreme position of attempting to hold down values to a level, which, in other Opec members' eyes, helped only the Americans. It will also be easier for Saudi Arabia to agree to \$28 or \$30 if it goes to Caracas with its prices already at \$24 than it would if it had to move from \$18.

The Saudi Arabians are gambling that by moving so far they can bring other states into line, reduce selling on the spot market and ease the pressure for production cuts which could badly hurt the West.

As at Abu Dhabi a year ago, when the price before the meeting was still only \$12.70 a barrel, the hawks and the moderates may be drawn together by the skillful negotiating of the Kuwaitis led by their oil minister, Shaikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah. Last year all the Kuwaiti's skill was in ruin. Within weeks of the meeting the oil market was in disarray.

Without doubt 1979 has been a year of shock for the West. We like to be able to fill our cars with petrol at will and drive them where we choose. There is no guarantee that such freedom will be available to all countries next year. Nor for five years has the outcome of Saudi Arabia been so uncertain, yet so important.

Technology

Putting a computer in your car

Kenneth Owen

The long-awaited marriage of electronics to the car has happened, a Ford Motor Company vice-president declared recently; the challenge now is to keep it a happy union.

His metaphor can be taken further: each partner has much to offer the other, since microelectronics can give the car and its engine a much more accurate and refined control than the more primitive, and give the microprocessor and attendant microcircuitry a very significant new mass market.

Fuel economy and exhaust emission controls are two main factors which have accelerated the introduction of microelectronics in cars. Sometimes the two are in conflict—running an engine at a higher temperature may improve fuel economy but at the same time increase the emission of nitrogen oxides. The finer control which the microprocessor provides can give remarkable overall improvements.

Japan has the most severe emission regulations in the world and an outline of the main lines of electronic development for cars in that country was given recently by Hitachi speakers at an automotive electronics conference organized by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. They listed seven generally applicable advances.

These are contactless ignition, using power transistors instead of contact points; electronic control of injection timing; fuel system with feedback control (to give a precise air/fuel mixture ratio for emission control); microprocessor controls for fuel and ignition timing;

an anti-skid module using Doppler radar measurement of the vehicle speed; a "drive computer" and electronic display, which can calculate and display relevant information on times, distances and speeds; and electronic control of air conditioning.

These are typical of the new systems which are being developed and introduced in a number of countries. The Hitachi speakers also described a Japanese experiment in which traffic in a section of south-western Tokyo was monitored and guided towards individual destinations by a radio-controlled dashboard display. This route guidance proved effective in reducing journey times; a two-year follow-on programme to develop a more practical system is planned.

It is enabling the sort of electronic revolution—and in particular the increasing logical power and memory, and decreasing cost, of large-scale integration (LSI) microcircuits—that is enabling the sort of complicated control that was previously available only in computer-based industrial processes to be applied in the car.

Replacing the traditional dashboard instruments with electronic digital displays is an obvious use for the new technology. Ford's experience in the United States gives an idea of how the process is gradually taking place. In its 1977 models Ford introduced a light-emitting diode (LED) display on a digital clock radio which showed the time of day or the radio frequency on command. The following year a

"distance to empty" indicator was introduced to predict how many miles could be driven on the fuel remaining in the tank.

Some of Ford's 1979 models incorporated an electronic digital clock which showed the day, date and elapsed time. This also included a warning display panel. In the new 1980 models an all-electronic instrument cluster has been introduced which includes a bar-graph fuel gauge, a digital speedometer and a "message centre".

The message centre is typical of the new electronic instruments that will be appearing more widely soon, initially in the more expensive cars but spreading down to the cheaper models later. Ford's version is a day/date clock which can display eleven warning messages and "drive" computer information.

Thus digital electronics makes possible a wide range of new possibilities on the dashboard. Also, as cars become increasingly similar in their outside appearance, the quest for minimum air resistance pro-

duces near-identical shapes) it is being suggested that, in the next 10 years, the manufacturers' battle to win customers will take place in the interior of the car and in particular on the instrument panel.

Volkswagen sees three interconnected, microprocessor-based electronic centres emerging in the car of the future—one for driver information, one for the car itself and one for the engine. The driver information centre, as in the Ford example, will replace and extend the present mechanical instruments and indicator lamps. One such extension could be a radio-linked guidance and information system of the type now being explored in Japan and Germany.

The car electronics centre could handle two useful functions in the future. One would be to activate a "passive restraint" system, an alternative to the seat belt which could be fitted in certain models from 1983. The other is an automatic cruise control which, if linked to radio guidance or a radar sensor, could control the distance of the car from the vehicle in front of it (the driver would be able to override the automatic control if necessary).

The engine electronic centre could be used to change the ignition timing to enable a leaner mixture to be used for idling; provide electronic ignition matched to the engine type; provide an electronic carburettor to meet Californian legislation; and provide a digital electronic fuel injection. A significant development was demonstrated in road tests last week at the Fiat Research Centre, Turin. This was a car which used a Fiat 102 engine, fitted with a microprocessor which controls ignition, fuel injection and a five-speed automatic gearbox. On the basis of variations either initiated by the driver or detected by sensors, the processor issues "commands" to optimize fuel consumption and emission by metering the fuel injected, setting the spark advance, adjusting the throttle and selecting the appropriate gear.

In these and other ways the marriage between electronics and the automobile is being consummated. What has already been demonstrated is the reduced fuel consumption and closer control of emissions. For the future, aircraft-type systems for collision avoidance and spacecraft-type video-screen displays will technically be feasible—at a price.

Business Diary: Sir Leslie's return • Sir Tony and after

years ago, when Sir Murphy announced that leaving merchant bank to join the National rise Board as Lord's full-time deputy chair, there were more than a raised eyebrows in the

to put too fine a point many people in the mile (and not a few out) disliked Lord Ryder were not impressed by the n of an eminent banker r Leslie (he was deputy an of Schroders) going a Lord Ryder's NEB.

Sir Leslie proved to be a r in more senses than for only did he succeed tyder as the NEB's chair- job he held until, along the NEB board, he d recently in protest at overment's decision to responsibility for Rolls- to the Department of ry, but he has also found y back to the City and roders, this time as a ecutive director and not y chairman.

this will not be surpris- those who know him r Leslie was never the yal merchant banker- one thing his political are a good way to the f many people in the He worked for Hugh ell for two years from when Gatiskell was er of fuel and power mained a great admirer- ing "banker" Perry- until his death. Perry- returned enthusiastically to an executive role at the though this time under a chairman, Lord Airle.



The winner of The Times Veveve Clitquot Business Woman of the Year award is the advertising agent Ann Burdus (above).

She is the chairman of McCann and Company group of advertising agencies. She was a weekend for two in Rheims, will have a vine named after her and will receive a bottle of champers on her birthday for the rest of her life.

Come Alain de Vogüé, the managing director of Veveve Clitquot-Ponsardin, presented the award at a ceremony in The Times' boardroom. The winners-up were Carmen Clitquot, the founder of the feminist publishers Virago, Anne Miles, managing director of the British Telecom company, and Margaret Weston, Director of the Science Museum.

It is proving no easier to find a new chairman for British Shipbuilders than it is for other loss-making state corporations, British Steel.

Business Diary's lunch is that Whitehall may give up the search and ask the present chief executive, Michael Casey, to double as chairman.

British Shipbuilders, which last week revealed that it is "on target" for a £100m loss this year, has been chaired since nationalization two years ago by Rear-Admiral Sir Tony Griffin. But his contract is up in March and is unlikely to be renewed.

In the heady days after the General Election it was thought that Sir Tony's successor might be Derek Kimber. He is the chairman of British Shipbuilder Wearside subsidiary Austin and Pickergill, a free market ideologue like Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary. But the word is that Kimber is not on.

One of the outsiders on Whitehall's list of great white hopes was Sir Lindsay Alexander, the dapper boss of Ocean Transport and Trading. But Sir Lindsay, former president of the General Council of British Shipbuilding, dapperly does not want to know and he is not the only one.

Which brings us to BS's two deputy chairmen. One is Ken Griffin, a former trades unionist, who joined the original organizing committee for BS under its then chief executive Graham Day. But Griffin is not about to be riding on the job.

He has left the same deputy and present chief executive, Michael Casey. He is a former civil servant, who moved over from the Industry Department

is paying her \$1.5m for five years' rights to her lips and face and Bristol-Myers have "bought" her hair. Her legs, said the magazine, "are up for grabs".

Not so, her agents Jerry and Eileen Ford tell Business Diary from New York. And even if they were on the market it is unlikely any advertiser could afford them.

John Nott's Department of Trade has brought out a useful free booklet called Zimbabwe Rhodesia: Information for Business Visitors. A more detailed Hints to Exporters is to follow. I hope the second book hints that the country is now called Southern Rhodesia.

Airfix Industries' American chairman Ralph Ehrmann may now be in disfavour with the Government over his decision to close down the Liverpool factory of Meccano at next to no notice two weeks ago. But it was not always so.

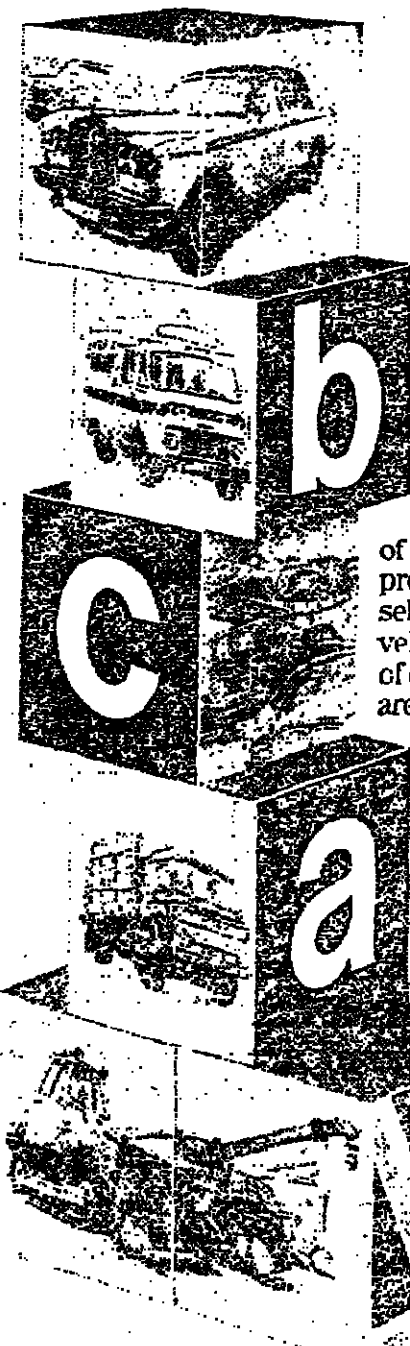
Only nine months ago one government body, the Northern Ireland Development Agency, went into partnership with Airfix Industries' Meccano-based Clabir Corporation to buy control of Defence contractor Wharson Engineers, of Elstree, Hertfordshire, and its Northern Ireland subsidiary Everton Engineering.

The then Northern Ireland Secretary of State Roy Mason had a warm meeting with Ehrmann in front of television cameras at an hotel outside Belfast to sign the agreement before they went inside for a private lunch together.

Having put up £375,000 each the government agency and Ehrmann's company hold 45 per cent apiece of Wharson-Everton's equity.

Former owners, the Hudson group, stayed in with 10 per cent and John Hudson still occupies the chair though Clabir provide the management.

Ross Davies



It's as easy as abc to deal with BCA

Every auction—and there are more than 30 a week—sees the list grow of names who appreciate it as easy as abc to deal with BCA.

Already more than 3,000 famous Companies regularly use the services of BCA and these are in addition to thousands of motor traders who recognise that BCA provide a unique facility for the buying and selling of used cars...but not all the vehicles auctioned by BCA come from the world of commerce and industry. Increasing numbers are entered by national undertakings and currently the group sells vehicles for 33 County Councils, 146 District Councils and 27 London Boroughs and the GLC.

All have proved there is no better, economic or more rewarding way than to deal with BCA—rewarding not only to them but also to BCA. As David Wickins, the Chairman, states in the Accounts 'Despite bad weather, energy crisis, continued inflation and increasing overheads our profits (£1,742,000 against £1,675,000) are still ahead of last year—and I hope that the current year's results will show a considerable improvement on 1979.'

For copies of The Report and Accounts, please write to The Secretary, Expediter House, Farnham, Surrey.

The British Car Auction Group Ltd.



Really Dry Gin

Stock Exchange Prices

Golds firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. § Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 7

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at Ower: Interview with botanist David Bellamy and presentation to cameramen at Pebble Mill (the BBC Midland studios) from the Guild of Television Cameramen. Also Peter Seabrook's gardening spot.

1.45 Camberwick Green: puppet tale (C). Close down at 2.00.

3.20 Paboty Cwm: serial in Welsh.

3.55 Play School: Irene Cockroft's story The Anything Book.

4.20 Macclesfield: cartoon. Fig visits the Antipodes.

4.25 Jackanory: final reading from John Galsworthy's novel, series read by the author.

4.40 Hong Kong Phooey: cartoon. Mr. Tornado (P).

4.55 Crackerjack: magazine programme for children.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School: same as BBC 1.

3.55 Close-down at 11.25.

5.40 Laurel and Hardy: The Perfect Day. One of their earliest sound films, and a classic. Stanley and Oliver plus uncle with gaudy foot, plan a picnic. Much fun with that plan and especially the picnic car.

6.00 Monkey: fantasy about old China. Made by Japanese TV, and now rendered into English.

6.45 Animation at Cambridge: cartoons.

7.00 Cricket: Australia v England. Satellite coverage of the first Test in Perth. Ritchie Bennett introduces the highlights.

ITV

12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at Ower: Interview with botanist David Bellamy and presentation to cameramen at Pebble Mill (the BBC Midland studios) from the Guild of Television Cameramen. Also Peter Seabrook's gardening spot.

1.45 Camberwick Green: puppet tale (C). Close down at 2.00.

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4.55 Crackerjack: magazine programme for children.

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.

6.10 Farming Today.

6.30 Today.

7.00 News.

7.30 2.30 Headlines.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Enquire Within.

10.00 News.

10.05 From Our Own Correspondent.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 The Bandman's Daughter (15).

11.00 News.

11.05 You, the Jury.

11.20 Bird of the Week.

12.00 News.

12.05 pm You and Yours.

12.30 My Word.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.05 Leonard's Hour.

3.00 News.

3.05 Listen with Mother.

3.15 Play: An Inspector Calls, by J.B. Priestley. 4.45 Story: The Christmas Star.

5.00 P.M.

5.55 Weather.

6.00 News.

6.05 Gung Places.

7.00 News.

7.05 Pick of the Week.

8.10 Prefaces to Shakespeare.

8.30 Any Questions?

9.15 Letter from America.

9.30 Kaleidoscope.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.15 Regional news, weather.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime.

11.15 Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Today in Parliament.

11.40 Organ: Softly Sings the Hours.

12.00 News.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

12.30 Regional news, weather.

11.00-11.30 Study on 4. Ken Problem.

RADIO

Radio 3

5.30 am-10.05 (m only fm 7.00)

Crick: Australia v England.

6.55 (m only) Weather.

7.00 (vhr only) News.

7.05 (vhr only) Records: Foerster, Couper, Respighi.

8.00 (vhr only) News.

8.05 (vhr only) Records: Suppé, Brahms, popular songs.

9.00 (vhr only) News.

9.05 (vhr only) Elgar (incl. Vin Conci).

9.15 (vhr only) News.

9.20 (vhr only) News.

9.25 (vhr only) News.

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7.00 (vhr only) News.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dave

Lee Travis. 9.00 Simon Bates.

11.31 Paul Burnett. 1.00 pm Andy

Peebles. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 6.31

Roundtable. 8.00 Al Matthews. 9.50

Newsbeat. 10.00 The Friday Rock

Show. 12.00-1.00 am A. Radio 1.

vhr radio 1 and 2. 3.00 am With

Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1.

12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

6.00 am News. 7.00 World News.

8.00 News. 9.00 World News.

10.00 News. 11.00 World News.

12.00 News. 1.00 World News.

2.00 News. 3.00 World News.

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